

2019 – 20

ANNUAL REPORT



To Our Supporters,

Last year, the UCI SAGE Scholars Program celebrated its 20-year anniversary. As we celebrated two decades of preparing the next generation of global leaders, we were confronted with the COVID-19 pandemic and the unprecedented challenge of adapting our programming, while simultaneously ensuring the safety of our Scholars. With the support of our community partners, we were successful on both accounts, and our most recent class of SAGE Scholars graduated fully equipped to enter the workforce or graduate school, and become the leaders needed for tomorrow's challenges.

The UCI SAGE Scholars Program was founded with the mission to provide low-income undergraduates with mentoring, leadership training, professional development, financial support, and access to relevant and meaningful work experience. UCI is recognized for doing the most of any university in the nation to advance upward social mobility, and SAGE serves as a vehicle for our students to reach for their American Dream.

Eighteen SAGE Scholars graduated in June 2020, representing 22 unique majors of study, and an additional 40 are slated to graduate in 2021. Additionally, many of our scholars interned at companies and nonprofits throughout Orange County. This is a testament to both our program's ability to support a diverse group of students and interests, and to the talent and determination of our SAGE Scholars, a majority of whom are the first in their family to attend college.

We could not do this work without the support of our generous sponsors, donors, and community partners. By partnering with SAGE, you have helped our students achieve their highest potential while at UCI. Your donations allow our students to focus on their academic achievements and your internships provide meaningful stepping stones that launch our SAGE Scholars into their careers. With support from donors and alumni, the program has grown in scope and scale each year, while maintaining a 100 percent graduation rate.

The following pages include program highlights and profiles of our 2020 graduating class. Our Scholars are exceptional in their drive, talent and ambition, and each Scholar has a unique and inspirational journey toward breaking down the barriers to success. Reading through their stories, I cannot help but be impressed by their journey, inspired by their accomplishments, and hopeful for the future these individuals will make for themselves and their community.

On behalf of all our Scholars and alumni, thank you for your continued support and involvement with the SAGE Scholars Program. I look forward to another year working together to reach for greater heights and strengthen our community.

With gratitude,



Neda Moayedi

Director

UCI SAGE Scholars Program

SAGE at a Glance

21 Years the UCI SAGE Scholars program has been in existence - the longest in the UC system

Graduation rate among SAGE participants, all-time: **100%**

540+ SAGE Alumni, all-time

Number of 2019– 2020 SAGE Scholars: **68**

22 Unique majors of study, Class of 2020 SAGE Scholars

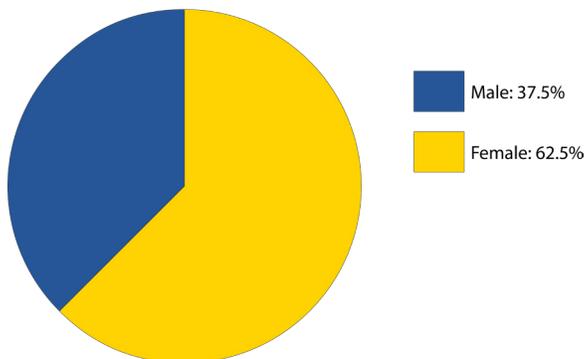
Class of 2020 SAGE Scholars who are first in their families to attend college: **94%**

47% Class of 2020 SAGE Scholars who earned two or more bachelor's degrees

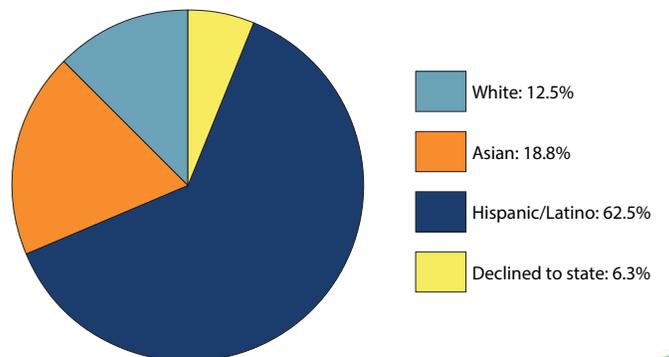
Class of 2020 SAGE Scholars who made the Dean's Honors List: **82%**

2 Class of 2020 SAGE Scholars who received the Chancellors Award of Distinction

Gender of SAGE Scholars, 2019-20 Cohort



Ethnicity of SAGE Scholars, 2019-20 Cohort



Ivy Alonso

Degrees Earned

B.A., Sociology
B.A., Political Science

Transfer Institution

West Los Angeles College

Experience

Alonso served as program assistant for the SAGE Scholars Program. There, she helped in the planning and execution of events and maintained the database to develop programmatic reports.

Biography

Alonso identifies as a first-generation undocumented college student raised in South Central Los Angeles. While an undergraduate, Alonso interned as an administrative assistant for the UCI Mathematics Department, which taught her how to work with students and to support and assist students with their academic needs. Alonso is committed to helping others attain their personal and educational goals. Alonso plans to work for a nonprofit organization and obtain her master's degree in Social Work.

Thank you

I want to greatly thank you for allowing this wonderful program to continue to provide amazing opportunities for individuals like me to reach their full potential. The SAGE Scholars Program has helped me in more ways than I believed possible during my academic career. They have mentored me, encouraged me, and guided me for life after college. Your contribution to SAGE has created an difference for both students and the UCI campus.



Emily Cadena

Degrees Earned

B.A., Criminology, Law and Society
B.A., Social Ecology

Experience

Cadena served as a teaching assistant for the UCI School of Law's Saturday Academy of Law. The experience allowed her to facilitate lessons for low-income high school students to enhance their ability to increase critical reading skills. Her lessons reviewed a series of Supreme Court Cases pertaining to First Amendment rights and evaluated hypothetical cases to strengthen the high school students' written and public speaking skills.



Biography

Cadena identifies as a first-generation college student from Culver City. In her four years at UCI, she worked as a Summer Session mentor, a learning assistant, an AVSC House Representative, and a teaching assistant for the Saturday Academy of Law. As a peer academic advisor for the School of Social Ecology, Cadena assisted students in selecting their major and class schedule, and helped refer students to resources. Cadena studied abroad in Paraguay through the UCI Global Service Scholars program, and helped improve Spanish literacy rates at the Cerrito Agricultural School. After graduation, Cadena plans to attend law school and work for the Department of Housing and Urban Development as an attorney in the Office of Legislation and Regulations.

Thank you

I am grateful to have been part of the SAGE Scholars Program during my undergraduate career at UCI. During my time at UCI, SAGE provided me with ample opportunities, experiences, resources, and tools that prepared me in navigating the university system and life in general. For instance, in our classes, we learned about the various academic resources available on campus, as well as how to request a letter of recommendation and apply to graduate school. We also learned how to network, budget, and set goals for our personal and professional life. Their mentorship, support, and encouragement enabled me to branch out and explore, expand my experiences, and grow as a person.

Jesus Chavez

Degrees Earned

B.S., Public Health Sciences
B.A., Public Health Policy

Experience

Chavez interned with Latino Health Access, a community-health nonprofit in Santa Ana. As part of the Health Career Connection program, Chavez experienced working in a community-health setting. The internship solidified his career goals and encouraged him in his efforts to improve marginalized communities' health.



Biography

Chavez graduated from UCI as a first-generation college student, and his involvement in various opportunities while at UCI shaped his career goals and interest in public health. Chavez built his leadership skills through being a SAGE Scholar, a board member for the Undergrad Public Health Association, and a volunteer for the Center for Student Wellness and Health Promotion and Alternative Winter Break program. He was inducted into both the Delta Omega public health honorary society and Phi Beta Kappa National Honors Society, and received the Excellence in Undergraduate Leadership Award from the Program in Public Health and the Chancellor's Award of Distinction from the UCI Alumni Association. Chavez participated in the Honors Research Project and Thesis investigation on predominant influences shaping Latinx college students' eating patterns. Chavez graduated as a first-generation college student, and his involvement in various opportunities while at UCI shaped his career goals and interest in public health.

Thank you

I would like to thank you for supporting a worthy program that builds leaders. The SAGE Scholars Program provided me with opportunities and wisdom that helped me build my professional, academic, and personal skills and allowed me to excel at UCI and beyond. I struggled with imposter syndrome coming into UCI as a low-income student but through SAGE's guidance, I gained the confidence to seek out new opportunities that could help me give back to communities that suffer from poorer health outcomes. I hope one day I can give back to programs like SAGE. Thank you once again for your generosity in supporting SAGE!

Roz Dastourian-Fard

Degree Earned

B.A., Business Economics

Transfer Institution

Irvine Valley College

Experience

Dastourian-Fard served as a research assistant for a study focused on understanding the impact of factories opening and closing on consumption.

Biography

Dastourian-Fard is a first-generation transfer college student. She gained valuable research experience through cleaning and analyzing data in collaboration with a professor in economics on the project “The Impact of Factory Opening and Closing on Consumption.” As part of the project, Dastourian-Fard captured data on products sold in stores in the city in question and the surrounding area. She also held a peer assistant role for the Economics Learning Center, where she tutored students to enhance their understanding of economic concepts. Her post-graduation goals consist of obtaining her real estate salesperson’s license and opening a natural stone business where she will sell wholesale products and design her own jewelry line.

Thank you

As a first-generation college student, it was hard to navigate and learn things on my own while simultaneously pursuing a degree, but this program has given me all the tools to succeed on my own. I have learned skills that I will continue to use in my everyday life - both personal and professional. Thank you for choosing me to be a part of the SAGE family.



Aaron Finley

Degree Earned

B.A., Psychological Sciences

Transfer Institution

Santa Monica College

Experience

Finley served as a research assistant for UCI's Silver Stress & Coping Lab, and also worked in UCI's ThriveLab. Through these experiences, he developed skills in conducting psychological interviews, coding video footage, and trained lab assistants.

Biography

Finley learned incredibly valuable skills in the SAGE Scholars Program, allowing him to thrive in a new environment and support him in building his network as he began his journey in preparing for graduate school. During his first year at UCI, Finley participated in research labs and the Social Ecology Honors Program. Finley also joined the Campus Honors Collegium, which honed his perspective on science and its role in shaping the world. With the skills he gained in the SAGE Scholars Program, Finley felt prepared when applying to graduate school. This fall, he will attend Baylor University's Doctoral of Clinical Psychology Program.

Thank you

I would like to thank SAGE Scholars Program staff Neda Moayedi and Cecilia Melgoza for being the first and most supportive mentors I found at UCI. The devotion of these two fine people shaped and inspired who I aim to become. I would also like to thank Pamela Osorio and all of my friends in the SAGE Scholars for making all the cohorts such a community of diverse backgrounds and strengths. SAGE teaches us skills, communication, connection and how to accept ourselves. As I move forward into the future, I will continue the values of the program in all of my efforts. I believe SAGE shows us to boldly embrace our fear and take the leap of faith to try and more often than not to succeed. Through this I learned resiliency, a core value for which I thank the SAGE Scholars Program.



Vincent Ha

Degree Earned

B.S., Computer Science and Engineering

Transfer Institution

De Anza College

Experience

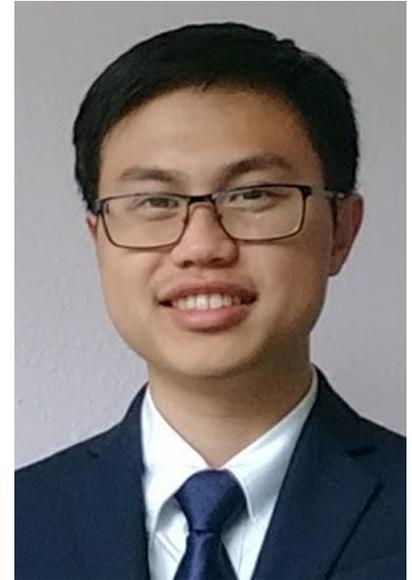
During his first year in the SAGE Scholars program, Ha interned at Nihon Kohden America and collaborated with a team of software engineers. During his second year, he interned at Leonardo DRS and worked on various projects to test thermal sensors.

Biography

Ha is a first-generation student from San Jose, California. At UCI, Ha found opportunities to use his engineering knowledge in a real-world setting. Ha joined the Anteater Electric Racing team, where he aided in developing a data collection system on the vehicle. He was later promoted to team leader, where he led the design and implementation of a wireless transmission system and an application to display vehicle data. Ha participated in two engineering internships during his undergraduate education. His experiences taught him valuable industry standards and best practices that furthered his career in the tech industry space. Upon graduation, Ha will join Western Digital as a Firmware Engineer, developing software for enterprise hard drives.

Thank you

Thank you for supporting an incredible program that motivates its participants to thrive academically and professionally. The SAGE Scholars Program taught me the professional skills necessary for a successful career post-graduation. The program provided me the opportunity to advance my career through networking events and internships. The staff, alumni, and fellow SAGE scholars offered a community that allowed me to pursue all my goals and aspirations. Thank you so much for making such a meaningful impact on my life!



Crista Urena Hernandez

Degrees Earned

B.A., Sociology
B.A., Education Sciences

Experience

Urena Hernandez interned with Irvine-based Team Kids. As a coach, Urena Hernandez facilitated multiple activities that motivated elementary students to build the confidence to take action and gain power in making a change by giving back to others in need.



Biography

Urena Hernandez is a first-generation undergraduate student from Maywood. She earned a place on the Dean's Honors List for nine consecutive quarters, graduating with a 3.9 GPA. Urena Hernandez was part of two research projects with distinctive roles. As a research assistant for the School of Education, Urena Hernandez developed interactive game interventions through play to increase elementary students' retention of math concepts. Working as a research assistant for the Sociology Department, she learned how to code data and images for a study regarding race relations. Urena Hernandez is currently applying to Ph.D. programs.

Thank you

Thank you to our corporate sponsors, supporters, and SAGE Scholars Program staff. Programs like these help first-generation, low-income students enter the workforce well-prepared. In many cases, the knowledge we gained helps push us ahead and makes us stand out. SAGE prepares you for life during and after college; it helped me find my professional confidence and taught me how to look at problems as lessons. Each of us has an individual journey set at our own pace, and SAGE taught me how to construct my own. SAGE also provided me with a community of people that were in the same position as me - all of us are trying to get ahead and are eager to support each other. This community would have been impossible without your support. From the bottom of my heart, thank you!

Rosalia Hernandez

Degree Earned

B.S., Aerospace Engineering
Minor: Business Management

Experience

Hernandez served as an IT intern with Nihon Kohden America. This experience allowed her to work alongside engineers and multi-disciplinary teams, complete projects, and network with employees.



Biography

Hernandez is a first-generation student who was part of the SAGE Scholars Program for three years and served as an ambassador. A South Central Los Angeles native, Hernandez aspires to be a role model for young Latinas in STEM. At the onset of her undergraduate education at UCI, she became the fundraising chair for M.E.Ch.A. de UCI, a multifaceted ChicanX/LatinX organization that concentrates on political, educational, cultural, and social issues that impact several identities. She also became involved in engineering organizations such as the Society of Women Engineers and the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE). In 2017, she received the Community Outreach Pillar from SHPE. In addition to being a SAGE Scholar, Hernandez was selected as a TELACU Scholar, Boukai Family Scholar, Magnificent Obsession Perpetual Scholarship recipient, and Marion DeRisio Memorial Scholarship recipient. Hernandez is beginning her career at Northrop Grumman and hopes to become an inspiration to young girls in her community.

Thank you

As a Latina in STEM, completing a male-dominated major was not easy. However, the SAGE Scholars Program provided me a safe space and support that allowed me to find my strengths and weaknesses to build my brand. I would like to thank donors and sponsors for allowing SAGE to prosper throughout the years. Through its leadership and professional development courses, academic support, and networking opportunities, I was able to thrive and successfully graduate. I am eternally grateful for SAGE and I hope to give back to the program and support other students like myself.

Alondra Lopez

Degrees Earned

B.A., Urban Studies
B.A., Political Science

Experience

Lopez was a teaching assistant for the UCI Law School's Saturday Academy of Law Program. As a mentor and agent of change, she taught students about their constitutional rights.



Biography

Lopez identifies as a first-generation undergraduate. She believes the most valuable thing one can pass down is knowledge, which is why she has participated in programs that teach youth about college and their understanding of U.S. laws. Apart from excelling in academics, Lopez participated in many political campaigns in Los Angeles County and interned for her city's council member. During her undergraduate education, Lopez participated in TRIO Scholars, Phi Lambda Rho, UCI Housing, and the National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH). She also served as a discussion leader for UCI's Summer Session Bridge program to support undergraduate freshmen with their transition from high school to college. During her last year, Lopez worked as the programs advisor for the Resident Housing Association, where she created informational and interactive leadership programs for the four undergraduate communities on campus. Lopez's passions are dismantling inequitable systemic practices found in schools and empowering youth through education and mentorship. Lopez has accepted a full-time position with City Year AmeriCorps, where she will act as a mentor to youth and empower them to reach their goals.

Thank you

Thank you to SAGE, corporate sponsors, and supporters. With the help of the SAGE Scholars Program, I was able to secure an internship on campus and a full-time job post-graduation. I learned many valuable skills such as salary negotiations, how to conduct effective informational interviews, and how to ace an interview. As a first-generation student, I felt lost and unsure of how to succeed post-grad. However, with the help of SAGE staff and their mentorship, lesson plans, and practice, I feel prepared for the workforce.

Melany Martinez

Degree Earned

B.A., Business Economics
Minor: Management

Transfer Institution

Napa Valley College

Experience

As an intern for Campus Living Lab, Martinez helped increase UCI's overall waste diversion rate and sustainability in the athletics department.



Biography

Martinez is a first-generation undergraduate transfer student from Napa. Martinez acclimated to UCI culture very quickly and discovered a new passion when she served as director of professional development for the Latino Business Student Association. During her last year, Martinez acquired several internships to expand her skillset. As the peer advisor intern for the Volunteer Programs Department on the Campus Organizations, she created and developed events for the UCI student body and directly advised campus organizations. She also advised UCI undergraduate students with career exploration, interviewing techniques, and resume critiques through her role as a peer consultant intern with the UCI Division of Career Pathways. Martinez accepted a full-time position with JA Gonsalves & Son Construction, where she will be supporting HR with their business operations. Martinez's long-term goal is to become an environmental consultant and improve the everyday practices of companies so that they are more sustainable for a better tomorrow.

Thank you

Thank you for allowing the SAGE Scholars Program to touch the lives of so many students. I will always commemorate this program, the staff, and the students with the highest regards. SAGE became my home away from home because I was able to build genuine relationships with the staff and students that I could always turn to with any questions or for advice. SAGE provided me the education and support that I needed to be successful during my undergraduate career at UCI, and I will never forget that.

Kevin Mendez

Degree Earned

B.A., Economics
Minor: Management

Experience

As the talent acquisition and human resources intern at Parker Hannifin Aerospace, Mendez assisted senior recruiters in sourcing and screening candidates for three different divisions.



Biography

Mendez is a first-generation student and comes from a low-income family from South Central Los Angeles. He participated in various SAGE workshops, from elevator pitches to financial literacy, and has learned and applied countless skills in his everyday life. Mendez enjoyed getting involved in the UCI community and meeting people of diverse backgrounds. As the executive coordinator for the Undecided/Undeclared Mentorship Program, Mendez developed events for 120 first-year undergraduate students and helped acclimate them to the UCI community. He also participated as a mentor for DECADE PLUS, a mentorship program that supports undergraduate students with their professional, career, and academic development. SAGE offered opportunities to develop himself professionally and equipped him with the necessary tools to attain his first internship with Parker Hannifin as a Talent Acquisition and Human Resources Intern and will begin a full-time position as human resources representative with the company.

Thank you

I would love to thank our phenomenal sponsors, directors, and advocates for their continued support in furthering SAGE's vision. SAGE creates a safe and innovative environment that fosters our personal, academic, and professional skills. This program enables us to reach our potential and become outstanding leaders, despite socioeconomic disparities and other adversities we may face. None of this would be possible without your dedication and contributions to the SAGE program. This program has given me a scholarship, life-long mentors, and the opportunity to break generational barriers. I am filled with gratitude for the guidance and impact SAGE has had in my personal and professional life.

An Nguyen

Degree Earned

B.A., Political Science
Minor: Asian American Studies

Experience

Nguyen interned with the United Nations House Scotland, where she worked on the Sustainable Development Goals and engaged the broader community.

Biography

Nguyen identifies as a first-generation college graduate from Riverside. This past spring, Nguyen received the Elena B. and William R. Schonfeld Scholarship, which was awarded by the School of Social Sciences to one outstanding undergraduate student from the graduating class who combines excellence in scholarship with the dedication to the university community and the highest level of achievement. During her senior year, Nguyen studied abroad at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. There, she pursued a local-level study on the U.K. and Scottish anti-trafficking prevention strategies in aiding Vietnamese nationals. Nguyen received the Fund for Education Abroad, Gilman Scholarship, and the Promise Award to support her time studying abroad. Nguyen is pursuing a Ph.D. in Sociology and intends to enter academia to produce resources, designate institutional spaces, and create leadership development opportunities for graduate students and faculty of color.

Thank you

Thank you for your generous support of the UCI SAGE Scholars Program! SAGE transformed my interpersonal skills and self-awareness of my strengths, leadership, and communication style. The program's leadership development seminars provided me with transferable qualities to thrive beyond UCI and expanded my visions for the future. But most importantly, SAGE created a space and community that impacted me in such meaningful ways. Once again, I want to express my gratitude for your unwavering support of SAGE!



Shusma Pant

Degree Earned

B.A, Sociology
Minor: Information and Computer Science

Transfer Institution

Pasadena City College

Experience

As the program coordinator for Nepal Society Group, Pant facilitated cultural events and taught young students dance routines.

Biography

Pant is a first-generation immigrant and low-income student from Los Angeles. Growing up in a third-world country, Pant prioritized education and self-development. She actively participates in organizations such as Little Sisters Fund, which promotes literacy in developing countries. Pant believes educated youth will bring positive changes to society. Pant has had a wide range of educational and professional interests; she sees herself managing a nonprofit organization that focuses on applied education for young children in the future. She has accepted a position with Kronsys as a support engineer.

Thank you

I would like to thank everyone associated with the SAGE Scholars Program from the bottom of my heart for providing love and support for students such as myself. I originally attended community college, and as an immigrant and first-generation student, I got lost and wanted to give up pursuing an education. Being the first in my family to go to college, I had no mentors or anyone to guide me. SAGE gave me a place to be vulnerable, yet empowered me with its resources. SAGE gave me my confidence back in the form of workshops like Strengths Finder. I am more focused, committed, and confident to enter my professional career. I am deeply honored to be a part of SAGE and would like to thank all the corporate sponsors and alumni for their contribution. I hope to reciprocate the same generosity in the future.



Eliza Partika

Degrees Earned

B.A., Literary Journalism
B.A., Global Middle East Studies
Certificate: Conflict Resolution and Mediation

Experience

Partika held a writing position with the Office of Strategic Communications & Public Affairs at UCI. She wrote, researched, edited, and pitched student impact stories, current scientific research, diversity stories, and developed articles to showcase the UCI community.



Biography

Partika traveled on experiential education trips to Israel and the Palestinian Territories with the Rose Project's Fact Finders Learning Mission and the Olive Tree Initiative. There, she heard personal experiences of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict from diplomats, journalists, and citizens on the ground. Partika considers both these experiences defining moments in her university experience; having the privilege to bear witness to the personal struggles and everyday lives of people within conflicts created in her not only a desire to continue learning and exposing herself to similar stories but a need to examine and correct the media's misrepresentation of communities in conflict. She is working on publishing narratives that will reveal the realities of these communities. She hopes that studying at UC Berkeley's Graduate School of Journalism in the fall will give her the digital skills to expand her capabilities in digital storytelling and bring people of all cultures to life.

Thank you

I wanted to express my immense gratitude to the SAGE Scholars Program. Through their networking and community service opportunities, I have grown as a professional and as a person. I was able to improve my resume and gain an incredible network of peers and mentors. SAGE has been a source of career improvement that will be beneficial to me well into my future.

Conrado Preciado

Degree Earned

B.S., Public Health Sciences

Transfer Institution

Hartnell Community College

Experience

Preciado interned at Married to Health, an integrative wellness center that brings together holistic medicine to bridge the gaps in healing. There, he developed patient education handouts and took vitals and body composition analyses.

Biography

Preciado is a first-generation student from the Salinas Valley. His goals include becoming a public health nutritionist and developing and integrating culturally sensitive nutrition education programs into underserved communities. At UCI, Preciado merged his passion for nutrition and health education by volunteering as a health coach at a local clinic. Preciado held classes such as *Cocinando Saludable*, which provided Spanish-speaking patients valuable evidence-based education, emphasizing the use of food as medicine. As a *Cocinando Saludable* lecturer, he became invested in learning more about the barriers his participants faced in attaining healthy lifestyles. He used this knowledge as a health and wellness coordinator at a local nonprofit during the summer. He accepted a position as a Health Justice Advocate with Latino Coalition for Healthy California.

Thank you

Thank you for your support of the SAGE Scholars Program and the unparalleled work they do. My peers and I have benefitted immensely from SAGE's services, which assist us in becoming competent and successful professionals. SAGE is the most supportive program I have experienced. Your support has allowed me to gain valuable insights and experience from professionals in the field, and it provided me with foundational knowledge by offering workshops on financial literacy, graduate school preparation, leadership development, and more. I am eternally grateful for my participation in SAGE and its profound impact on my undergraduate career.



Walter Ramirez

Degrees Earned

B.A., Political Science
B.A., Education Sciences

Transfer Institution

Santa Monica College

Experience

Ramirez's interned at the U.S. Department of Education in Washington, D.C., working in policy research. The internship aided in his professional development and understanding of the federal government's role in higher education as it relates to Latinx students in Hispanic-Serving Institutions.

Biography

Ramirez is a first-generation Mexican-American student from Inglewood. His participation in the First Generation First Quarter (FGFQ) Program motivated him to become a mentor. While mentoring students through FGFQ, Ramirez realized he enjoyed working with a diverse group of students and saw the ways in which it could lead to a future career in higher education. Ramirez was a research assistant for Dean Richard Arum for the School of Education, and he completed the Political Science Honors Thesis Program with Dr. Davin Phoenix in the School of Social Sciences. He traveled to Tokyo through the U.S.–Japan Collaborative Online International Learning Initiative to better understand Japan's education system, learning, and culture. Ramirez aspires to earn a Ph.D. or J.D. and to help marginalized communities with issues of college access, equity, and civil rights. He plans to continue traveling the world to learn more about how other countries address issues of racial, gender, and economic inequality.

Thank you

Thank you to our corporate sponsors and alumni for supporting the SAGE Scholars Program. SAGE provided me with so much support and guidance, which enabled me to grow academically and professionally. Additionally, the SAGE social and community service events enriched my college experience as I was able to build rapport with the program staff and my fellow peers while contributing to a good cause. I am forever grateful to you for allowing me to be part of an incredible program.



SAGE Leadership Summit

In January, SAGE Scholars participated in team-building activities to improve their personal and professional development, and made new friends across all majors during the daylong SAGE Leadership Summit.



The morning began with Ryan Foland (*left*), author of *Ditch the Act*, guiding our Scholars through the 3-1-3 Method and supporting the students' professional branding.

In the afternoon, Kian Mokhbery (*right*), CEO and founder of Key on Harmony, facilitated an interactive workshop on maximizing the Scholars' ability to utilize their strengths and skills to evolve into their best version of themselves. As we wrapped up a day full of activities, Scholars participated in a guided meditation facilitated by Mokhbery that enhanced students' mindfulness.



Perfecting Your Elevator Pitch

The SAGE Scholars Program curriculum is a 2-course series designed to promote career readiness competencies for successful transitions from college to career and graduate school. As part of the curriculum, our Scholars spend time in the classroom crafting and practicing an elevator pitch, which builds their confidence to seek out opportunities at networking events, career and graduate school fairs.



Service Learning Projects

Our Service Learning Projects are hosted once a quarter at a local nonprofit to instill social responsibility among our scholars. These community service events enhance our scholars' social consciousness and support those in need. The SAGE Scholars work collaboratively to make a lasting, positive impact on Orange County and the greater community at large.

Mary's Kitchen

During the fall quarter, 20 SAGE Scholars distributed clothing and prepared and served hot lunch to more than 200 people who are experiencing homelessness in Orange County.



Service Learning Projects

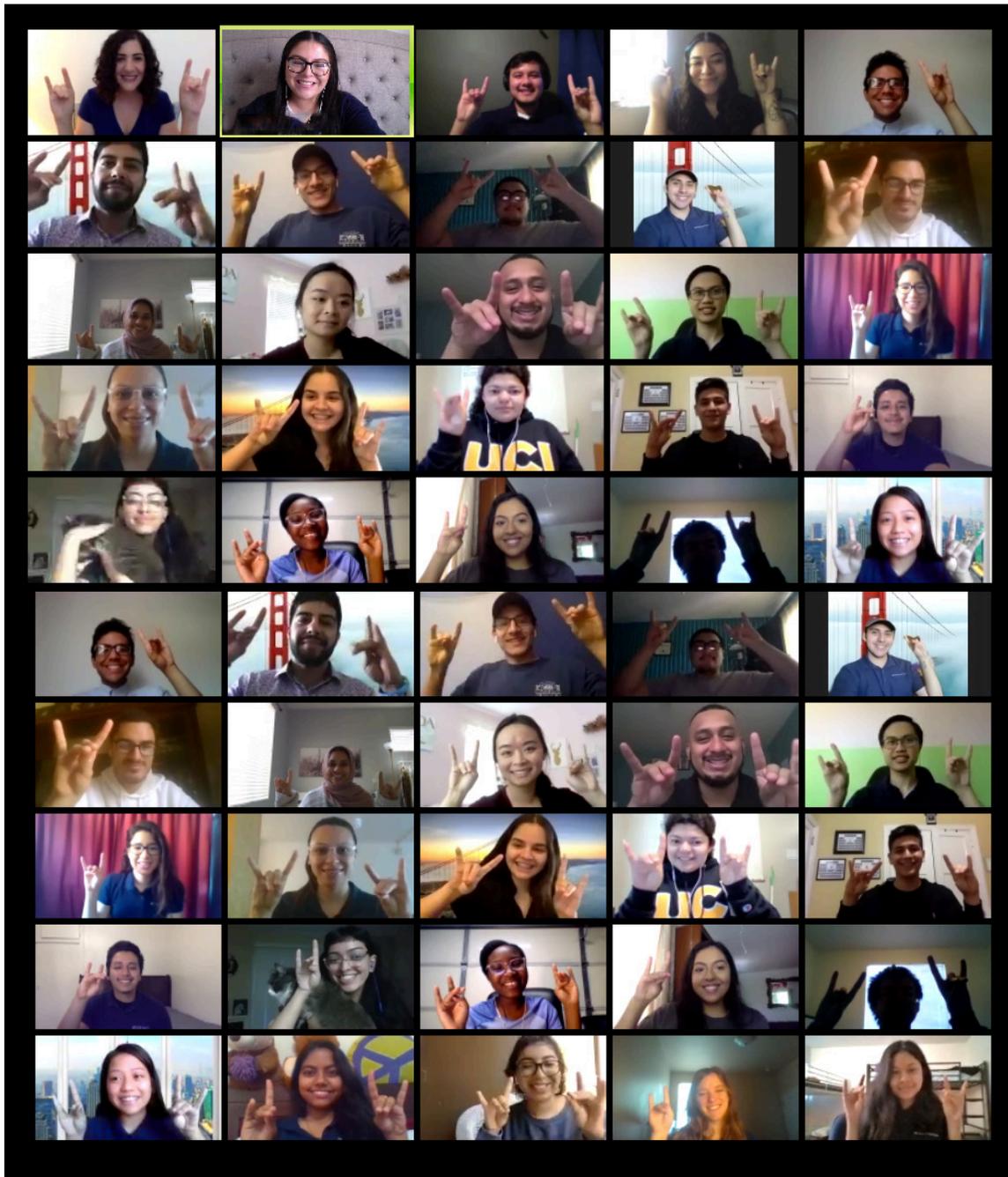
YANA Cancer Comfort

Fifty SAGE Scholars, along with the local community, made more than 300 hand-tie fleece blankets and care packages for cancer patients during the Winter quarter.



SAGE Thanks You!

Everyone from the SAGE Scholars program appreciates your generosity and support!



Our Donors

Thank you to the many sponsors of the SAGE Scholars Program. Your contributions help in providing programming, resources and inspiration to the future leaders of Orange County.



UCI SAGE Scholars Program
Student Achievement Guided by Experience

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