

CORO CENTER FOR CIVIC LEADERSHIP FELLOWS PROGRAM IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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Alex Cárdenas
Los Angeles, CA
BA, American Studies
Cornell University



At Cornell University, Alex was an undergraduate representative of the Latino Studies Program Advisory Board and a Champion of the 2010 Cornell Law School William McKnight Moot Court Competition. In addition, Alex studied abroad for a year at the Berlin Consortium for German Studies through Columbia University. After having worked as a Legal Assistant at a Washington D.C. law firm, Alex plans to attend law school to learn how to implement effective immigration policy and improve the legal services offered to immigrant communities.

Yannina Casillas
Moreno Valley, CA
BA, Anthropology
University of California, Los Angeles



As a Mexican-American Muslim woman, Yannina is part of a very small minority that has overcome many unique challenges. Having this dual identity has allowed her to understand the struggles of two very different communities. At the age of 14, Yannina was the victim of gun violence and has dedicated herself to helping marginalized communities and victims of violent crimes. At UCLA, Yannina worked with the Incarcerated Youth Tutorial Project and took on other leadership roles to use her story to empower herself and others.

Brenda Castillo
Napa, CA
BS, Business Administration
BA, Political Economy
University of California, Berkeley



Most recently, Brenda worked as a college counselor and academic tutor. She is passionate about finding solutions to increase the number of low-income students that attend college. Combining this passion with her background in business, she was the Program Manager for Young Entrepreneurs at Haas in Berkeley, where she coordinated an after-school program to teach basic product development, marketing, and leadership skills. As a student at Berkeley, Brenda served as President of the Latino Business Student Association. After Coro, Brenda plans to obtain an MBA, become an entrepreneur and support organizations that foster academic success.

W. Daniel Costello Jr.
Rochester, NY
BS, Psychology
High Point University



Having a strong commitment to service, Daniel most recently served as an International Volunteer for the YMCA in Bogota, Colombia where he taught English and worked as a cultural ambassador. A graduate of High Point University, Daniel served as both President of his fraternity and as Student Body President on campus. He received the University Award for Leadership and the Campus Compact Community Impact Award. Daniel is interested in entrepreneurship and one of his goals is to operate his own business. After Coro, Daniel plans to pursue a career in public service.

Justin Gold
Encino, CA
BA, Philosophy
BA, Political Science
University of California, Davis



Born and raised in Southern California, Justin attended college at UC Davis where he served as an elected student Senator and founded *The Pantry*, a student run food bank for students at UC Davis. In addition, Justin co-chaired the Chancellors Undergraduate Advisory Board and the UC Davis Campus Climate and Inclusion Committee. He also spent some time in Washington D.C. where he interned in the office of a Congressperson. He is interested in sustainable living, and plans to earn an MBA or a Master in Public Policy to create a culture of environmental sustainability.

Neel Lalchandani
Oakland, CA
BA, Political Science
University of Pennsylvania



Neel has a passion for civil liberties, constitutional law and working with youth. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Pennsylvania where he published a paper on judicial power in the Guantanamo detention cases in the *Washington Undergraduate Law Review*. After graduation, he completed the Humanity in Action Fellowship Program in Lyon, France. Neel also served as a mentor, teacher and leader for 21 high school freshman as part of the Urban Prep Fellows Program in Chicago, IL. He plans to pursue a career in public interest law, with the aspiration of ultimately becoming a federal judge.



Annie Kim Noguchi
Sacramento, CA
BA, Ethnic Studies
BA, Asian American Studies
University of California,
Berkeley



As a student at UC Berkeley, Annie was the Managing and Story Editor for *Hardboiled*, an Asian Pacific American news magazine. She also served as Youth Representative for the Florin Japanese American Citizens League and helped plan a trip to Manzanar Concentration Camp for 90 members of the Japanese American and American Muslim communities. She is a graduate of the Greenlining Academy Summer Associate program where she was trained to focus on policy issues impacting Californians. After Coro, she wants to work for underserved communities.

Kelsey Rugani
Linden, CA
BS, Agriculture Science
California Polytechnic State
University, San Luis Obispo



After having been involved in Future Farmers of America throughout high school, Kelsey decided to attend Cal Poly San Luis Obispo to study agriculture science. At Cal Poly, Kelsey became the youngest elected Chair of the Board for the ASI Board of Directors. She worked to create an endowment fund to provide students with leadership training opportunities. Kelsey also completed an internship in the California Governor's Office, where she explored renewable energy facilities for the state. Kelsey was named an Outstanding Senior for the College of Agriculture for her contributions to the university. She plans to work to pursue a career in policy making.

Alejandra Ruiz
Jackson Heights, NY
BA, Urban and Regional
Studies
BA, Spanish Area Studies
Cornell University



Coming from New York City, Alejandra was most recently the Education Organizer at Make the Road New York, where she organized parents and facilitated workshops on various educational and community related topics. For the past several years, she has been involved with United We Dream where she served as Campaign Consultant this summer. Through the Americorps VISTA program she worked to open an after-school learning center at an affordable housing complex for the National Farm Workers Service Center. Alejandra would like to continue on to graduate school and work on education and immigration policy.

Danielle H. Siegler
Boca Raton, FL
BA, Philosophy
Occidental College



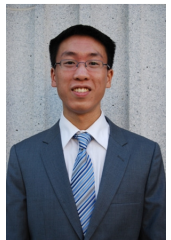
An adroit athlete, Danielle grew up playing competitive tennis. At Occidental College, she served as both Captain and President of the Women's Rugby Club. While at Occidental, she received the Dean's Award of Excellence for her leadership and involvement in campus life. Danielle also worked as a Programming Assistant for the Office of Student life. Deeply impacted by her most recent work with Bet Tzedek Legal Services in Los Angeles, where she worked on supporting Holocaust survivors apply for restitution funds from the German government, Danielle plans to attend law school and pursue public interest law.

Ariel A. Sweet
Phillips Ranch, CA
BA, Interdisciplinary Studies
University of California,
Berkeley



At the young age of 11, Ariel co-founded with her family The Aliah Sweet Fragile Hearts Foundation, a nonprofit organization that grants wishes for siblings of children who have severe, life-threatening disabilities. She won the ABC "Cool Kids" award for her work with the Foundation. At UC Berkeley, she was the Co-Leader of the Berkeley California Golden Overtones a capella group, and she also interned for the United Nations. Ariel is also a member of the Screen Actors Guild and AFTRA. After Coro, she plans to attain a joint degree in law and journalism and pursue a career in human rights advocacy.

Minh Dan Vuong
Northridge, CA
BA, Economics
Stanford University



Minh Dan grew up in Frankfurt, Germany and moved to Southern California at the age of 17. As a student at Stanford, Minh Dan led Alternative Spring Break trips to San Diego, was a Program Coordinator, and ultimately became the Executive Director of the program on campus. He also served on the National Advisory Board of Stanford's Haas Center for Public Service. He is interested in immigration issues, the education sector, and organizational behavior. His future goals are to promote students' civic engagement through service-learning and leadership experiences.

