

EOPS - Guardian Scholars Program

Ezekiel Contreras-Forrest

Submitted by The EOPS Team

When Ezekiel joined our SBCC community in 2018, we had no idea what a profound gift was being bestowed upon us. Ezekiel Contreras-Forrest is someone who embodies the power of the stories of our Guardian Scholars students. The inherent challenges of having been in the foster care system and being a low-income student, have fueled his motivation to make our campus, and really, this world a better place. His humble, kind, and resilient spirit inspires us all. More importantly he inspires other students, from similar backgrounds, to break the cycle of poverty and reach new heights. Ezekiel's commitment to student success and the betterment of the SBCC community is palpable. His leadership and commitment to making the campus a better place is evidenced by all he's done at SBCC such as creating the first ever Filipino Cultural Club at SBCC, being a member of the Associated Student Government, working passionately as an EOPS/Guardian Scholars Peer Mentor, serving as a Student Rep for Enrollment Services, a Student Ambassador for Guided Pathways and International Students, and being the recipient of the *California Community Colleges Board of Governors Student Leadership Award*. We are further honored that Ezekiel Contreras-Forrest was selected as SBCC's 2021 Commencement Speaker!

Ezekiel's Words of Gratitude

EOPS Family, I love and appreciate you all so much!!! Years ago you gave this kid from San Francisco a chance in college and I hope that I have made you all proud since. Without all of your support, I don't know where I'd be today and I certainly wouldn't be recognized for this award if it weren't

for all of you. So Camila, Christina, Ali, Chelsea, Ana, Yesenia, MaryLou, Paloma, Christina L., Eli, Tim, Ish, Reuben, Noel and all of our peer mentors THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU for changing my life for good and for helping me positively impact those around me in the process. I'm super thankful for all of you being in my life and for all of the great moments we've shared together. Just know that y'all are forever family and that I love y'all with all of my heart.