

**Orange
County Bar
Foundation**

Higher Education Mentoring Program

Monthly Newsletter

Fall 2013



ORANGE COUNTY
BAR FOUNDATION

UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Attention Students,
Parents & Mentors :**

**End of the Year
Celebration**



Wed. Dec. 4, 2013

5:30pm-8:00pm

***Due to limited space
RSVPs required.**

Contact Info.:

Adriana Naranjo,
Program Coordinator
anaranjo@ocbarfoundation.org
714-480-1925 x 100

Martha Madrid,
Program Director
mmadrid@ocbarfoundation.org

Personal Statement Workshop

On Wednesday, October 9, 2013 from 6 - 8pm, Seniors in the Higher Education Mentoring Program attended the Personal Statement Workshop held by Cristina Flores, UCI's EAOP Regional Coordinator. Ms. Flores engaged the students and gave tips on how to make their personal statements stand out from the rest of the applicants. She emphasized the importance of extra-curricular activities as well as taking on leadership positions to enhance their application. The students filled out the University of California Personal Statement Worksheet that can be found on www.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply to help them get started on their essays.

Personal Statement Do's & Don'ts:

Do:

- Plan ahead. Make sure you have a list of the deadlines.
- Write a "hook" (your very first sentence) that will capture the reader's attention. Make it unique.
- Have multiple people revise your drafts (*Remember: you *will* be writing multiple drafts).
- Focus on your strengths and talents—not your weaknesses.
- Apply at least a week before the applications are due to avoid any last minute problems.

Don't:

- Start your essays on Thanksgiving week-end.
- Use slang or abbreviate words.

- *Talk* about why you are the right applicant—*show* them.
- Be culturally insensitive.
- Make spelling and grammatical errors.

Prompts for Fall 2013:

- 1.) Describe the world you come from — for example, your family, community or school—and tell us how your world has shaped your dreams and aspirations.
- 2.) Tell us about a personal quality, talent, accomplishment, contribution or experience that is important to you. What about this quality or accomplishment makes you proud and how does it relate to the person you are?

Important Information to Remember:

- *Respond to BOTH prompts
- *Both prompts = total of 1,000 words
- *Shortest response should be no less than 250 words.

*APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY:

NOVEMBER 30, 2013



Welcome Janet



My name is Janet Mateo. I attended Santa Ana High and started my higher education at Santa Ana College. After completing my general education there, I transferred to UC Irvine as a Social Ecology major and I am currently completing my last quarter and plan on graduating in December. I will be the first in my family to attend college and obtain a university degree. After obtaining my B.A. degree I

plan to pursue a job in a non-profit community based organization.

Having an interest in social services is what led me to the Orange County Bar Foundation's Higher Education Mentoring Program. The mentoring and knowledge available to many first generation students is a great opportunity for success and accomplishments. I get a gratifying feeling out of being part of such a driven program where I know I will interact with hard working and inspired students. I know I will learn skills that will help me practice my profession more efficiently.

I plan to participate in the program for the entire academic year. I will be in the office on Tuesdays from 2:00pm to 8:00pm and Wednesdays from 2:00pm to 6:00pm. You can email me with questions or comments anytime at jmateo815@yahoo.com.

Welcome Juniors

On October 2, 2013, Adriana Naranjo, the Program Coordinator, welcomed the new Junior class and parents into the program at the Junior Orientation! She gave a presentation on the program requirements and what is expected of the students and parents during the next 18 months. She stressed the importance of the students' commitment to this program, as well as the involvement of the parents — the key to a student's success is often with the help and support of their parents.

For the second half of the orientation, the students and parents dispersed into two groups. Ms. Naranjo continued her presentation to the students and explained what the monthly workshops consisted of while Ms. Madrid, the Program Director, spoke to the parents about the program, the importance of their participation, and answered questions and concerns. The students discussed the A-G requirements that they must fulfill before applying to colleges/universities. They were also given worksheets to write down their short- and long-term goals pertaining to their education and their future careers. They wrapped up the orientation by sharing their responses.

Welcome Amy



Hi! My name is Amy Holeman. I was born in Japan, raised in Tokyo and Los Angeles, my mother is Japanese, my father is American, and I am a 5th year Senior at University of California, Irvine majoring in Social Ecology and minoring in Art History. I will graduate in March of 2014. Prior to UC Irvine, I attended Venice High School in Los Angeles — where I had the opportunity to play Varsity basketball for four years and discover my

passion for art and mathematics — and I also attended a private Japanese school every Saturday for 11 years. My third year at UC Irvine, I studied for a semester in Paris, France and I truly love multiculturalism.

In this day and age, I believe it is so important to work hard in school and pursue a higher education. Because the competition between high school graduates is becoming more and more intense as the years go by, it is essential for students to become involved and stay committed to clubs at school, take on leadership positions, and excel in a second language, if possible. I decided to become an intern and a mentor for the Higher Education Mentoring Program so I can give students the guidance and support that I wish was given to me, as they prepare for the most important and exciting years of their lives — *college*. High school students have so much potential and sometimes need that extra push and encouragement to figure out their strengths, giving them hope that their goals can be achieved with hard work and the right resources.

"I have not failed 10,000 times. I have successfully found 10,000 ways that will not work." — Thomas Edison

*Remember: We are here for YOU, so don't be afraid to ask questions! I am available on Mondays from 10am – 4pm and on Wednesdays from 10am – 2pm or by appointment. Please feel free to contact me at aaholeman@gmail.com. I look forward to hearing from you!

Stanford University



On October 9, Beatriz Valdez, Admission Counselor from Stanford University, visited with students individually at the OC Bar Foundation office. She spoke about the admissions process and answered questions and gave feedback on concerns. Great insight to a great campus!

