

THE SCOOP

UCI SCHOLARSHIPS

SCHOLAR MEET & GREET

Featuring Litzy, UCI
Scholarships' DREAM
Project Fellow

SCHOLARSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Forouz Firoozi Endowed
Memorial Scholarship

UCI RESOURCE CENTER

Learn more about the Latinx
Resource Center

SUMMER 2022
ISSUE NO. 9

LITZY MARTINEZ

Business Economics, B.A.

Class of 2022

Litzy Martinez is a bubbly and passionate Business Economics major who also has a minor in Political Science. She will be graduating this spring while leaving a legacy of advocacy and kindness. She has been an indispensable scholarship fellow within the Scholarship Unit. She joined the team in the fall of her third year at UCI. Her impact will continue years after she completes her fellowship.

She initially focused on student outreach, informing them of opportunities and instructing them about how to apply through conducting multiple workshops. Litzy worked with the School of Ecology and UCI Dream Center to make sure its students knew about scholarship opportunities. She even presented to undocumented students to ensure they knew about the scholarships UCI had to offer. As she continued her work with Scholarships, Litzy started working with Iman Siddiqi, donor and UCI alumna '18. Iman created the Refugee Students Scholarship Program by raising over \$93,000 in a single night. The program is operating at UCI, other UC campuses, and California State University schools. Litzy joined Iman's team to maintain and expand the program by conducting outreach surveys to refugee students, planning scholarship presentations, and organizing networking opportunities. Those opportunities included reaching out to professionals in fields students were interested in to come and speak, while tailoring the program to their needs. Litzy hosted her first event — recognizing and awarding the refugee students that were part of the program. Through her entire experience, she learned a lot about event planning, outreach, public speaking, and refugee advocacy. Litzy is much more confident in her abilities thanks to her time working in the Scholarships unit. She is conducting research on what type of new scholarships UCI should offer in order to meet the needs of its students. Litzy will present her findings to the entire unit later this year.



This hardworking student sees herself pursuing law school because of her involvements at UCI. As an undocumented, non-DACA student, she felt very isolated; she often sees undocumented students being left in the dark. Litzy joined Students Advocating for Immigrant Rights and Equity (SAFIRE) and helped create a fellowship with professional development and compensation. Dr. Angela Chen of UCI DREAM Center made a big impact on her. Litzy became the Chair and Director of advocacy in SAFIRE to ensure undocumented students have opportunities. She also helped create an internship with SAFIRE called Advocacy Community and Engagement (ACE) Mentorship Program. These experiences contributed to her passion of advocacy and motivated her to become a lawyer. After graduating, she plans on studying for the LSAT during the summer and tackling applications in the fall. She hopes to attend UC Berkeley, UCLA, or UCI. Litzy is eyeing UCI's immigration program in particular and would love to stay in the area.

Clearly, she is an accomplished and compassionate student. She advises students to take up space wherever they go and to put themselves out there. Litzy believes that students should always advocate for themselves especially if one is a first-generation and/or an undocumented student.

We wish Litzy all the best on her future endeavors. We know you will excel as a lawyer and continue to advocate for marginalized communities. We are proud to have had you in our unit and will miss you dearly! Congratulations!

SCHOLARSHIP SPOTLIGHT

FOROUZ FIROOZI ENDOWED MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Forouz Firoozi Endowed Memorial Scholarship was created to honor the memory of Forouz Firoozi. Forouz Firoozi was an accomplished leader in the fields of technology and finance, as well as an advocate for gender parity in the workplace. She helped develop early digital wireless technology in the United States and was a pioneer in developing the emerging fin-tech industry. A first-generation college student and an immigrant who lived on three continents to reach her goals of attaining higher education, Forouz completed a Master of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, Sweden, and an Executive MBA from the Duke University's Fuqua Business School. Forouz went on to work in executive leadership roles at Ericsson Inc., Avaya, Bank of America Merrill Lynch, and Wells Fargo. She also served on the board of directors for various non-profit organizations such as YMCA and the Art & Learning Conservatory to help under-represented youth.



This scholarship was created in memory of Forouz Firoozi



Left to Right: Daniel Firoozi (Donor), Kayla Luangsouphom (22-23 recipient), Meraf Amare (21-22 recipient), Fabian Firoozi (Donor)

Forouz was passionate about helping others and this scholarship was created by her loved ones as a continuation of her legacy and a celebration of her life. The Forouz Firoozi Endowed Memorial scholarship aims to help first generation, undergraduate students enrolled as either STEM, Business Administration, Economics, or Quantitative Economics majors who have faced, or are currently facing, adversity. Her family hopes this scholarship will help students by allowing them to not have to work or take out student loans during their time in college.

LATINX RESOURCE CENTER

The Latinx Resource Center (LRC) was established in 2019 with a mission to raise awareness of social, political, economic, historical and cultural realities of the Chicanx/Latinx communities. Staffed by two seasoned student affairs professionals, Director, adeli durón and Program Coordinator, Victoria Rocha, the center launched into service remotely during the pandemic and opened its physical space to students in 2021. By offering resources, programs, and a space where cultura, arte and academia are interconnected, the center focuses its efforts to broaden access, increase retention and ensure a clear pathway to graduation through the empowerment of Chicanx and Latinx students.

To fulfill their mission, the LRC provides resources and programs in three categories: Academic Support, Campuswide Programming, and Leadership/Involvement Opportunities.

Academic support efforts include: Mermeladas de studio where the Latinx Resource Center partners with UCI Calteach program to have a student provide math tutoring drop-in hours for students for free. The THRIVE course which is a 1.3 P/NP unit course that is only open in the Fall to all incoming students which include incoming first year and transfer students. This course helps students navigate the transition during their first quarter at UCI. In this course, students are exposed to campus life and resources to create a sense of community here. LEAD (Latino Excellence Achievement Awards Dinner) is a program that celebrates and recognizes graduate students. One graduate student per school is nominated by their department for their excellence in leadership or research to be awarded and honored. The LEAD celebration brings the students together with their families, academic units, and community members.

Campuswide programming includes La Bienvenida which is usually held during Welcome Week to start off the year with music, food, performances, student organizations and more. Programming continues throughout the year with Dia de los Difuntos (beginning of November), Latinx Heritage Month Keynote, Celebrating AfroLatinidad Series (month of February), La Despedida (end of Spring quarter), Nuestra Graduación (end of Spring Quarter), Workshop/panel events, and more.

Leadership/Involvement opportunities include the Volunteer Program, Peer-to-peer mentorship program, Internship Program, Campus Organization Affiliates Program, DREAM Program Fellows, Social Ecology Field Study, and SPPS Field Study.

Students can visit the Latinx Resource Center on the 4th floor of the Student Center in the RISE Suite.

Questions about the Latinx Resource Center? Contact latinx@uci.edu to connect with the LRC and follow them on Instagram @ucilatinx to stay updated with their center!

Website: <https://latinx.uci.edu/>



The first Latinx Resource Center mural – a project spearheaded by our 21-22 Art History graduate student intern, Isabella Betanzas Leon. Pictured from left to right are UCI students who worked closely with Isabella in the development of the mural, our Latinx Resource Center director – adeli durón, and Damin Lujan – the local muralist that partnered with us in creating this mural for the center and for the UCI community.