

2017 Resident Grant Recipients

BRITTANY CRAWFORD

Marina Vista
SF Region – Vallejo

PAOLA GARCIA-RODRIGUEZ

Santa Inez
SB Region – San Mateo



Brittany Crawford

Brittany is pursuing a career in Psychology. Early on, she's had to deal with her share of challenges both at home and at school. Her mother dealt with a lot of personal troubles and, thus, Brittany's older sister had to step up and provide care for her and their younger brother. Brittany struggled with classwork, time management and concentration, only to find out later that she had a learning disability. Although she hadn't thought much about what to do after high school, she decided to attend a community college. From there she went on to San Francisco State where she received her BA in Psychology and became the first in her family to graduate. Brittany then started working at the Suicide Prevention Center where she had previously volunteered for some time. She also volunteered at the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice

where she helped train participants who had recently been released from jail by teaching them basic life skills. These were programs designed to help them adapt to life back with society. She realized then that life would probably be different for these formerly incarcerated individuals had there been programs available to help them through their mental issues or substance abuse problems. She wants to be a part of a solution to break the cycle for a lot of these repeat offenders. She specifically wants to focus her work on inner-city youth to help address this problem. Brittany is currently finishing up her first year at Alliant International University in San Francisco where she is working on her Doctorate in Psychology.

Paola Garcia-Rodriguez



Paola doesn't shy away from challenges. She came to the United States from Mexico knowing very little English. She was forced to skip 2nd grade due to her age. While she excelled in math prior to coming to the US, now she was behind, but determined to catch up. Although not her favorite subject, she's proud of how she persevered and recently conquered Statistics and Calculus. She asks for help, finding tutoring resources and study groups to assist her. She is the eldest of 4 children and strives to be a good role model for her siblings. She works three part-time jobs, while going to college and helping her family, even sending money to her grandparents. Some of her jobs involved taking care of, tutoring and helping kids with their homework. Her exemplary work at the

Gap has motivated her to learn more about business. Her favorite subject this semester is Microeconomics. She hopes to work for one of the big Silicon Valley companies like Google or Facebook for the experience, but because they also allow their employees to volunteer locally. She volunteered at the local food bank, her church and her brother's school. She'll be the first in her family to graduate college, and this grant will make this goal more attainable and ease the burden on her family. Paola is dedicated and has an optimistic disposition. She is already modeling our CRISP core values.



THE
JOHN STEWART
COMPANY

2017 Resident Grant Recipients

PAULA JOHNSTON

Rochdale

SAC Region – Woodland

CARMEN NOYOLA

Vermont Manzanita

LA Region – Los Angeles



Paula Johnston

Paula Johnston believes education is imperative to a person's success personally, professionally and important in bettering the community around them. As a single mother of two special needs sons, she has been pursuing a career in women's health. With this award, she will further her educational goals and will help her afford the specialized childcare needs for her sons. Her oldest son is autistic and her youngest son was recently diagnosed with Idiopathic Thrombocytopenic purpura (ITP) two years ago. Paula will be attending classes to become an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC) and be certified as a Lactation Specialist. She has a passion for helping others and

wants to see other families have the upmost support to succeed in their dreams. She hopes to become employed by her local hospital or WIC agency to support mothers and families dealing with Perinatal and Postpartum Depression. She is grateful for the opportunity of receiving this award and thanks JSCo for allowing her to share her story.



Carmen Noyola

Carmen Noyola is a junior at the University of Southern California (USC) majoring in Non-Governmental Organizations and Social Change with a minor in Urban Sustainable Planning. As a former probation foster youth and single mother, Carmen turned to transitional housing for security and began attending East Los Angeles College. Shortly after, she transferred to USC and since then has become involved in advocacy. Among many other events Carmen serves as a committee member to the annual Youth Development Services College Summit where she empowers probation foster youth to utilize available resources to obtain higher education. Carmen is a strong advocate for social justice and values uplifting her community. She believes that education is

a way to develop oneself personally and professionally if it is coupled with mentorship and work experience. She hopes to build strong supportive foundations for her community through the housing sector as well as start a non-profit in the future that provides funding for probation foster youth to gain work experience while seeking higher education. Carmen aspires to be a role model to probation foster youth by influencing policy and showing that anything is possible.