



## A Note From The Dean ...



Today, we launch our monthly issue celebrating alumni achievements, and the five women featured demonstrate the impact CHABSS has on our community. With B.A. degrees in Sociology, Liberal Studies, Psychological Sciences, and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, these women are making a positive impact in local government, education, and in the lives of students at CSUSM. We also give a shout out to Graduate Dean's research award winner as she launches the next step of her educational journey. **Jennifer Figueroa, Imelda M. Huerta, Star Rivera-Lacy, Ilianna Ramirez, and Tatiana Willis** are five of the more than 30,000 alumni of the College of Humanities, Arts, Behavioral and Social Sciences. We look forward to highlighting their contributions throughout in our monthly newsletters.

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# Alumni Report



## New Hires to Boost Success of APIDA, American Indian Students

Allura Murray-Cruz and Ilianna Ramirez took very different paths to their current station. What they most share in common – besides both being 24 years old with gregarious personalities – is a love of their ethnic heritage and a strong desire to help students of that heritage thrive.

Ramirez returning to her roots



## Longtime Vista Resident Selected As New Assistant City Manager

A longtime Vista resident with extensive experience in local government service has been hired as the city's new assistant city manager. Imelda M. Huerta, a CHABSS graduate with a degree in sociology, began her new position on Sept. 13, according to a city announcement.

Soc alumna making strides





## Figueroa Captures Graduate Dean's Outstanding Award

Psychological sciences alumna Jennifer Figueroa captured the Graduate Dean's Outstanding Graduate Award for 2022-2023. She earned her M.A. in the same subject when she wrote her thesis titled "Do Relationship Beliefs Matter? The Role of Implicit Theories of Relationships on Conflict Resolution Styles in Emerging Adults' Romantic Relationships."

Figueroa wins award



## Alumna Paves Way As Palomar's First Latina President

Star Rivera-Lacey has grown from poverty in childhood to earning a Ph.D. and today serving as the first Latina superintendent/president of Palomar College. It was that ability to remain optimistic during challenging times that helped her become the first in her family to graduate from college when she received a bachelor's degree in liberal studies at CSUSM.

Star shining bright

## WGSS Alumna Raises Funds Via Scholarship For Transfers



Cal State San Marcos alumna Tatiana Willis founded The Willis Scholarship in hopes of empowering transfer students to continue their education. Willis began her higher education at MiraCosta College before transferring to CSUSM to pursue her degree in women's gender and sexuality studies. While at CSUSM, her motto was to "throw the rope back." As a student, Willis received grants and funding that played a vital role in her ability to complete her degree. This year she achieved her dream of graduating and now wants to help other transfer students follow in her footsteps

# What's Happening?

Sept. 26 — **Office of Global Education Drop-ins:** Mark 243 9 a.m.-12 p.m.  
(throughout the fall every Tuesday)

Sept. 27 — **MediaMakers Live Presents Grifthouse: Megan Koester & Howard Kremer, Comedians/Actors/Writers:** Arts 240 11:30 a.m.-2:20 p.m.

Sept. 27 — **January in Rome Session:** ZOOM: <https://csusm.zoom.us/j/82782992748>  
1:30-2:30 p.m

Sept. 29 — **Summer in Spain Language Info Session** ZOOM:  
<https://csusm.zoom.us/j/83314496481> 10-11 a.m.

Oct. 2 — **Master of Arts in Sociological Practice Program Info Session:** Signup at  
[www.csusm.edu/sociology/graduateprogramprospective/infosessions.html](http://www.csusm.edu/sociology/graduateprogramprospective/infosessions.html) 6 p.m.

