

PREPARING TOMORROW'S LEADERS



"WHAT STANDS OUT TO ME ABOUT HOW I HAVE EVOLVED THROUGH OUR MENTORSHIP IS THE REALIZATION THAT I CAN TAKE ON NEW CHALLENGES AND MEET THEM."

Madeline Rayón



Madeline Rayón signed up with the Faculty Mentoring Program almost as soon as she transferred from Palomar College in the fall of 2013. Her pairing with Dr. Sharon Hamill proved instrumental in Madeline earning a degree in psychology last spring. Now Madeline is in graduate school, where Hamill continues to serve as her faculty mentor.

"The Faculty Mentoring Program has given me the opportunity to gain more opportunities," she said. "It allowed me to meet Dr. Hamill. It allowed me to discover my passion. It allowed me to apply to graduate school, and it allowed me to attend graduate school. I really can't say enough about it."

That's quite a change from when she first came to CSUSM. A first-generation college student who lacked confidence, Madeline said she wasn't sure what she wanted to do when she arrived. Then she took an Introduction to Psychology course that piqued her interest. Before long, she changed her major and was introduced to Sharon, who became her mentor.

"Maddy has been a gem from the start," she said. "Her intelligence, dedication and sense of humor have been inspirational to me. Her insights into the experiences of first-generation college students and her commitment to understanding the college experience of students from multiple ethnic backgrounds has fueled my own long-held interests in these topics."

Said Madeline: "What stands out to me about how I have evolved through our mentorship is the realization

that I can take on new challenges and meet them."

Sharon said the Faculty Mentoring Program has been instrumental in changing so many lives for the better.

"It is an exceptional program, a program that provides access, it provides structure, it provides support, and it not only provides support for students, but also for members of the faculty," she said.



Though now in graduate school, Madeline (left) still relies on her faculty mentor, Professor Sharon Hamill, for guidance and support.