Did you hear about the rose that grew from a crack in the concrete?

Proving nature’s law is wrong, it learned to walk without having feet.

Funny it seems, but by keeping its dreams, it learned to breathe fresh air.

Long live the rose that grew from concrete when no one else ever cared.

— Tupac Shakur —

THE EOPS JOURNEY
Extended Opportunity Programs and Services

"It is good to have an end to journey toward; but it is the journey that matters, in the end."

– Ernest Hemingway
Dear Ohlone Students,

I share the excitement of EOPS in presenting this yearbook to serve as an inspiration for you to reach your goals. I hope it keeps you motivated and on the path to success. EOPS has helped you along the way and will continue to encourage you to move forward.

The yearbook is also a keepsake for you, one that can help you visualize your ideals and that you can share with others as you pursue your educational aspirations.

Gari Browning, Ph.D.
President/Superintendent
Ohlone Community College District

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

– Nelson Mandela
Greetings from the Director!

I am SO elated that we are able to provide this awesome publication for you. EOPS is a very special program, and those of us who have been privileged to provide you with services, feel honored to help you achieve greatness! Everyone needs a little encouragement and motivation every now and then, so we hope that seeing yourself in your ‘future’ gown and stole, will encourage you to continue pressing toward your goals. You are all very special people and we learn from each one of you. Congratulations on taking this next step towards your chosen destiny. Always remember that EOPS has your back!!

Fondly,

Debbie Trigg
Debbie Trigg
Director
Student Life, EOPS & Ombudsperson

“Permanence, perserverance and preseistence in spite of all obstacles, discouragements, and impossibilities: It is this that in all things distinguishes the strong souls from the weak.”

– Thomas Carlyle
What is EOPS?

The Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) Program was established by Senate Bill 164 in 1969. It was created to meet the educational needs of students hindered by language, social, and economic disadvantages. EOPS was to provide “above and beyond” support services that include, but are not limited to, individualized counseling, early registration, peer support, grants, workshops, academic and transfer assistance.

What is CARE?

The Cooperative Agency Resources for Education (CARE) Program was established by Senate Bill 3103 in 1982 to assist EOPS students who are single, head of household, recipients of CalWORKs, receiving cash aid, with at least one child under the age of 14. This was intended to break the welfare-dependency cycle by completing college level coursework. This would ultimately lead them to become employable and economically self-sufficient. The CARE Program provides supplemental support services such as: meal tickets, gas cards, topical workshops, and grants.

Purpose

The primary purpose of both EOPS/CARE is to prepare students to transfer to a four-year university, complete an Associate Degree or vocational certificate which can lead to a rewarding career as a result of their educational experience.

EOPS and CARE are making a meticulous, intentional, and deliberate effort to support and lead students to a better and brighter future.

Philosophy

In order to ensure that all students are given equal opportunity for academic success, it is our responsibility to provide comprehensive support services:

- To enhance self-esteem
- To foster pride and dignity
- To motivate those whom the program serves
- To enable students to effectively define and pursue career goals, and to maintain an open-door policy
EOPS regulations and guidelines may be found in Title 5, Chapter 2.5 of the California Code of Regulations. A nickel and a nail are the statewide symbols of EOPS.

**The Story Behind The Nickel and the Nail**

The story goes that a young man, years ago in the deep South, walking down a long, unpaved, dusty road to visit his lady friend, was all too aware that he had but a nickel in his pocket and that his self-esteem would be questioned if he were unable to indicate that he was a man of means.

Noticing two gnarled horseshoe nails lying by the side of the road, he picked them up and put them in his pocket. As he jingled these ferrous objects together with his meager fortune, he walked a little bit straighter and with a little more pride and dignity.

Similarly, the Extended Opportunity Program endeavors to enhance self-esteem, foster pride and dignity, and motivate those whom the program serves, enabling them to more effectively define and pursue career goals. It is important that they too have "something to jingle".

Further, the nails are twisted into a puzzle, suggesting that the complete enigma has still yet to be unraveled for helping those who, through societal circumstances, have been limited in successfully meeting their educational challenge.
ON THE Journey

Fatema Afzali  Nabeel Ahmad  Chelsea Nicole D. Ancheta  Nargess Anwar

Tatyana Asberry  Tomika Asberry  Thida Aung  Sonam Babu

Ella Brewster  Alina Buck  Christine Campos  Latoya Childs
ON THE Journey

Tu Chung
Tyresha Claiborne
Roda Corpus
Juan C. De Leon
Mercedes Fernandez
Miguel Fuentes
Donia Fuqua
Adiel Gonzalez
Najia Hajizadeh
Greg Harris
Duong Ho
Phuc Ho
ON THE Journey

Tham Ho  Thuong Ho  Htet Htwe Htwe  Julian Hu

Xiaoyu Huang  Fiani Johnson  Kari Jones  Amina Karimi

Jeremy Keokham  Samimullah Khushzad  Diemquynh La  Liangling Liang
Shao Zhen Liang
Michael Long
Karen MaCall
Angelica Madril

Semiyah Sobayo-Mahmoud
Jose Millan
Jennifer Morgan
Hieu Nguyen

Khan Nguyen
Mai Nguyen
Tam Nguyen
Tham Nguyen
Students not photographed

Afzali, Fahima
Ahrari, Mariam
Alamkhel, Sohail
Alpiche, Jose
Amiri, Homaira
Arash, Reshad
Arroyo, Larisa
Arsala, Sania
Ashfaq, Muhammad
Azam, Adil
Barichi, Lee ha
Bennett, Alexis
Brass, Pharisa
Burrell, Palkina
Caballero, Alynna
Cadenas, Maria
Cao, Anh
Castro, Maria
Chai, Ling
Chavez, Julio
Childs, Makayla
Conner, Marnee
Cordova-Soto, Cynthia
Do, Sang
E, Lina
Ebrahimi, Dean
Elsanhoury, Nada
Espinoza, Josday
Fan, Yifei
Galaviz, Anastaysia
Garcia-Hernandez, Maria
Ghoman, Kiranpal
Giang, Nhat
Gonzalez, Rosy
Han, Chit
Harris, Lamya
Harvey-Jones, Patricia
Hashimi, Madeena
Hashimi, Sophia
Hashimi, Zainab
Hashimi, Syeda
Henderson, Audriana
Henderson, Taylair
Htwe, Zin
Huang, Guitao
Huang, Jiaxin
Ilyas, Muhammad
Imami, Muzhra
Jamil, Nasreen
Jarmon, Kay
Jiang, Weixian
Johnson, Christina
Kakaizada, Hasibullah
Kalonda, Eshino
Karimi, Mohammad
Kassed, Omar
Kassed, Sara
Khan, Adil
Khan, Hena
Khan, Idrees
Khine, Pan
Landis, Derricka
Laserna, Kristen
Le, Bao
Le, Hoang
Le, Huan
Le, Thy
Lewis, Charleeene
Liang, Shao-Zhen
Lin, Dayong
Liu, Zhanglin
Lodin, Fahema
Ma, Li
Mai, Tram
Martinez, Angelica
Maung, Pyae
Mayar, Homa
Mohammad Husein, Hadia
Mohammad Husein, Lina
Mojadidi, Sena
Moore, Maleena
Mousa, Emaud
Mousa, Milad
Mousa, Zinat
Muntazir, Mehrfaza
Nawabi, Zarina
Neal, Pamela
Nguyen, Bao Tin
Nguyen, Han
Nguyen, Hung
Nguyen, Stephanie
Oo, Min K
Patel, Vikash
Phan, Van Thanh
Pirzada, Freshta
Prem, Heng
Prince, Stephanie
Rahman, Saeed
Randolph, Joann
Rasooli, Shaab
Richardson, Solomon
Rivas, Cesar
Rivera, Maira
Rodriguez, Laura
Shah, Parth
Sharma, Mehak
Shi, Wei
Shoman, Sharif
Simms, Justine
Singh, Gurpreet
Sun, Carrie
Taglidoschi, Sara
Tang, Liqin
Ton, Angela
Trinh, Thanh
Troung, Nga
Tun, Nay
Verduzco, Juan
Wang, Yu Ting
Ward, Alicia
Win, Chozin
Xu, Qina
Zhou, Kailun
Dr. Gemma Jamena completed her medical degree with high honors from Ross University and her residency training from Virtua Family Medicine in New Jersey. She has returned to Fremont as one of the doctors at the Tri-City Health Center.

Everyone has their own path to travel. God allows us to encounter different types of people that affect our life in various ways. Some can ground you, others can drag you from bursting forth. But then again, there are those who thrust us to breaking the boundaries of what we perceive we could be. Others lift us up to new heights of dreaming and allow us to say, maybe, it doesn’t have to be just a dream. These are the people who believe in investing their time, kind hearts, and tireless effort to tend to that which yields the greatest—the seeds of hope.

That’s what the people of EOPS do. It’s not just a job for them. It is who they are.

At this time, my path has lead me back to serve my own community as a family physician and I am proud to say that I am but one of many that EOPS has helped. Still my journey continues…

Dr. Jennifer Jovel received her Ph.D. and is currently teaching Sociology at Ohlone College.

It was fifteen years ago that I walked up the stairs to Ohlone College for the first time. Somehow, I found my way over to the EOPS office and applied to be part of the program that I knew very little about.

The truth is, I knew very little about anything at all that involved college. I wondered if I was even smart enough. Having struggled to make it through high school, I just didn’t see myself as “college material;” even if I did find a way to make it through my college classes, I still wasn’t sure if I could afford them.

I entered college really doubting that it was a place meant for me, but I was fortunate enough to find a sense of belonging as an EOPS student.

EOPS became a place where I could go ask for help. I had an excellent counselor who answered questions I didn’t even know I had, and I found a role model, such as Sandy Bennett, to who I still look up to. It was only because of the support I received from EOPS that I was able to transfer to U.C. Berkeley and become the first person in my family to graduate from college.

Being an EOPS student at Ohlone College had a huge impact on me: I learned how important it was to give back to our community and to help other students. So after graduating from college, I came back to work at Ohlone to do just that. I found that I loved working with students and I knew that this was the place I needed to be.

Watching my students overcome their struggles inspired me to continue on with my own education as well. I kept going to school and I earned both a Master’s degree in Counseling and a second Master’s degree in Sociology. I also earned a Ph.D. in the Sociology of Education from Stanford University.

It was a long and difficult journey, but I found continuous support from my Ohlone family. I now teach Sociology at Ohlone College, which is a dream come true, and I hope to give back to other students what was given to me.
The most important lessons from college are what you learn in between the facts and figures: That dedication pays off. That big ideas usually start as small ones and big journeys always start with small steps. That greater difficulty leads to greater reward. That you CAN. This is what stays!

Susan Gutkind, Ph.D.
Dean of Counseling and Special Programs

Years from now, you’ll look back at this time of difficulty and struggle with a smile—it will have helped make you into the brilliant, diligent, intelligent, and charismatic people you will become. You have learned the art of balancing your life much faster than everyone around you, and as teachers, we are honored to have students such as you in our classes—whether you know it or not, your ability to succeed in spite of all your challenges inspires us daily. Thank you for being our students—and our teachers.

Sobia Saleem
Faculty, English

“To dare is to lose one’s footing momentarily. Not to dare is to lose oneself.”
—Søren Kierkegaard
Keep daring to be your most amazing self!
Dr. Polly Peterson

Congratulations on walking through the door and enrolling in school! You are already a big success by recognizing the difference that a good education will make to the quality of your life. Don’t be afraid of all that is to come. Welcome the challenges that are going to help you grow and follow the path to the successful future waiting for you! And remember that you are not alone. We are all here to help you along the way.

Steve Giudici
Principal
Fremont Adult and Continuing Education

“As a former Ohlone student, and current employee, I want to salute the EOPS students who represent the best of the community college system, and provide so much pride for those of us who work here. Many of you struggle through hardships and obstacles that would make a normal person quit, yet the high character demonstrated by your perseverance will reverberate through our entire community for years to come. Every day I come to work, I feel blessed that I have the opportunity to work with and help such a great and inspiring group of people. Congratulations on your success. Nobody can take away what you have achieved for yourselves!”

Dan Hester
Ohlone College Senior Office Assistant/Dispatcher
Campus Police Services

“If you don’t try, you’ll never know what you are missing out on!”
Josephine M. Kelso, Ph.D.

I am a single mom of two autistic children. EOPS has helped me to stay on track and has provided me with support so that I won’t give up on my education. The counselors have inspired me to pursue a career where I can help other students become successful and face the obstacles in their lives.

Christine Campos
EOPS Student
In a wonderful book by Louis Sachar, “Small Steps”, the main character is told by a counselor that life is “like walking upstream in a rushing river.” If he tries to take a giant leap all at once, he may fall over and be swept away. But if he takes persistent small steps, he can move in the direction he wants to go. Keep taking those small steps, and may they carry you further than you ever thought possible!

Heather Norem Ryan
Adjunct Counseling Faculty
Ohlone College

Wishing good luck to EOPS students!
The sky is the limit! Never give up!
Daman Grewal

May you continue to discover who you are, what you are able to accomplish, contribute and to fulfill your purpose in life. Don’t be discouraged when obstacles come your way. They are but opportunities for you to reveal to yourself what you are made of. Dream big, work hard and allow yourself to accept the help of others on your journey. Continue to take steps of courage as you grow and reach the goals you have set and will reach as you believe in yourself and place your faith into action.

Lisa Flores
Former EOPS Student

I joined the Ohlone EOPS family in Spring 2012, and it has been a wonderful journey ever since. As part of the family, I had received much help from everyone in our family. I am grateful for everyone’s help and encouragement over the past couple of semesters at Ohlone to get me to where I am today. I am proud to inform the EOPS family that I will be a Level 1 Nursing Student at Cal State East Bay. In addition, I am now in the EOP program at CSUEB. Thank you so much for all the care and love over the years.

Diem Huynh

Don’t be afraid to challenge yourself and step out of your comfort zone. You will never know what is out there if you keep your feet planted on one spot. Also, ALWAYS advocate for yourself and for what you believe in because this is your own life journey and you know what is best for you.

Therese Gonzales
Former EOPS Student

Be passionate about something and commit to it with all that you have in you. That being said, don’t let anyone tell you that you’re too young, too old, too poor, or too passive.

Congratulations on your success at Ohlone!

Yvonka Headley
Ohlone College Counselor

EOPS has helped support me by ensuring that my academic needs are met. I feel EOPS students are cared for and supported by the entire EOPS staff in many ways. The EOPS Staff and counselors, especially Mr. Miao Waters, should be appreciated with a “BIG THANKS” for all of the great things they do for EOPS students.

CTT

“Forget mistakes. Forget failures. Forget everything except what you’re going to do now and do it. Today is your lucky day.”

Jenny Schmidt
Adjunct Reference Librarian
Ohlone College Library
Tony Bui received his bachelor’s degree from UC Irvine and is now working at Ohlone College’s Learning Resource Center as both an aide and a technician. Welcome home!

It has always been a pleasure being a Renegade at Ohlone College. From the time I attended the school as a bright-eyed, young man to the times I came back to visit both staff and faculty, Ohlone College has always held a special place in my heart.

I remember walking up those steps at 6:15 in the morning because I foolishly signed up for a 7:00AM English 101A class. Five years later—after transferring with highest honors, leaving a legacy at UC Irvine, and receiving my teaching credential at San Jose State—I find myself walking up those same steps, but now, as both a colleague and a student mentor. It brings me tremendous joy to be able to give back to the community that once supported me. So much has changed over the years…but the sense of community, trust, and loving dedication to improving the lives of all students has never left the campus I was once so involved in.

Of course, none of this would’ve been possible had I not reached out and found my way to the EOPS office at Ohlone College; Debbie, Inga, Mzao, Sandy, and Shawna…each and every one of them shared their wisdom with me when I was still trying to figure my way around, and although I consider myself diligent, they taught me something better—to be efficient.

I had a fantastic counselor to bump fists with when times were good, and I had a fair but kind mentor to reach out to when things got tough. EOPS gave me the stepping stones I needed to stride further in my time at Ohlone than I could’ve imagined doing on my own. Being the first in my immediate family to receive a Bachelor’s degree and above…I owe so much to the EOPS office for all of the encouragement, advice, and overall support they provided me as I was still developing as both an academic and a professional.

I am happy to be back…and it feels like home. Come visit me at the LRC in Newark if you have any questions at all about student life, work-life-school balance, the transfer student experience (especially going away from Northern California), or if you just need an open ear to hear you out—I am happy to support any Renegade that comes my way!

“If my mind can conceive it, and my heart can believe it, I know I can achieve it.”
~ Jesse Jackson

We hope the photos showcased in this book will serve as a powerful visual weapon that will empower our students to continue beating the odds and overcoming obstacles that might become a barrier to pursuing higher education.

Much like a vision board that one can use to maintain focus on a specific life goal, this book, featuring students dressed in a graduation gown and draped with an EOPS stole, is meant to be a powerful visual tool to motivate, inspire and encourage our students to embrace the journey and continue on the path to completing their educational goals and dreams.

Sandy Bennett
EOPS/CARE Coordinator
Contact EOPS

For assistance or if you have any questions about EOPS, please contact our office.

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(510) 659-6152 • Fax (510) 659-6159
Email: eops@ohlone.edu

www.ohlone.edu.eops

EOPS Hours
Monday - Thursday: 8:30am - 5:00pm
Friday: 8:30am - 1:00pm
Climb to Your Highest Potential

Do you want to make the most of your life?

This practical course will help set you on a path to success with powerful insights and tools designed to help you plan out the vision for your life, and more importantly, execute on that vision. Grounded in scientific research, “Choose Your Destiny” empowers you to live deliberately and effectively, move past obstacles, and discover what it means to achieve your full potential.

EOPS presents

“Choose Your Destiny” Workshop

Learn how to take control of your life to achieve your dreams.

Three key ingredients to achieving your desired happiness and success that needs to be in place to make it:

- Knowing where you are going
- How are you going to get there
- Persisting like crazy to getting there

*Students who complete all 8 sessions will receive a special award.

Create your roadmap to success!

For more information, contact: Sandy Bennett (510) 979-7549