



SOUTHWESTERN COLLEGE

*Student of
Distinction Award
2011*



**Marcela N.
Appelhanz**

College Major: Journalism/Public Relations

Educational Goal: Journalism Bachelor's degree, Spanish Master's degree.

Life Goals: To strive for perfection in everything I do in order to achieve personal distinction.

Special interests, achievements, contributions: Served in the U.S. Navy and forward deployed to Iraq. Interested in loving and caring for the people that surround me. Love. Hopeless romantic.

In one sentence, how would you like others to remember you: As my friend Lyndsay Winkley put it "an independent journey cloaked in compassion."

Nominated by: Max Branscomb



**Ana
Karen
Ascencio**

College Major: Applied Mathematics

Educational Goal: Applied Mathematics degree, Master's degree, then work as a professional mathematician, emphasizing my knowledge in the science and computer fields.

Life Goals: To be an educated and successful person – expert in my field of study – others can admire. I want to make my family proud of me and motivate others by my example.

Special interests, achievements, contributions: Math and dance, my perfect balance. Puente Club Treasurer and summer intern at SPAWAR System Center Pacific. MESA Math Tutor and recipient of the NSF-CC-MESA Scholarship. 3.7 GPA. Accepted to UCSB, UCSD, SDSU and SFSU.

In one sentence, how would you like others to remember you: As a dedicated student, a woman who perseveres, supportive sister and beloved daughter...with a brilliant mind!

Nominated by: Dr. Raga Bakhiet, Carl Scarbnick and Kathy Parrish



**Elena
Anel
Betancourt**

College Major: General Biology

Educational Goal: Become a neurologist.

Life Goals: To become a professional in the medical field in neuroscience and found a medical non-profit organization.

Special interests, achievements, contributions: Community service and volunteering. When I grow up as a professional, I will create a medical non-profit organization to serve the poorest communities. Going to Southwestern College has given me opportunities to become a leader, gain experience, follow my dreams and share my knowledge with others.

In one sentence, how would you like others to remember you: A cooperative, dedicated and committed person.

Nominated by: Dr. Raga Bakhiet



**Claudia
Edith
Duran**

College Major: Applied Mathematics

Educational Goal: Transfer to UCLA, then earn a J.D. from USC Gould School of Law.

Life Goals: To own a motorcycle, become an immigration lawyer, work for the FBI, eventually teach at the collegiate level, buy my parents a house, and be a role model to my younger brother.

Special interests, achievements, contributions: Member of MEChA, Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society (President, 2009–10) and an ASO Senator. Member of SWC Technology Task Team which produced a new technology plan to aid Southwestern College in its accreditation process. I've volunteered as a literacy tutor for the YMCA and as a document translator for the Casa Cornelia Law Center.

In one sentence, how would you like others to remember you: An introverted, but ambitious girl who had a joke for every occasion.

Nominated by: Craig Moffat and Ed Cosio



**Maryam
Eram**

College Major: Communication

Educational Goal: Transfer

Life Goals: To get the most out of my education and give back to my community.

Special interests, achievements, contributions: Co-author of a food blog, Flamenco dancing. Study in Italy this Fall.

In one sentence, how would you like others to remember you:
As a passionate person.

Nominated by: Surian Figueroa



**Jake
Farris**

College Major: Sociology

Educational Goal: Doctorate in International Relations/Studies.

Life Goals: To promote social justice and equality by working for the Peace Corps or United Nations.

Special interests, achievements, contributions: Treasurer of "Can't Stop Won't Stop." President's List. Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. ASC and Writing Center tutor. Volunteer at "The Center." Member of the Human Rights Campaign.

In one sentence, how would you like others to remember you: As someone not concerned with fame, but with service to others.

Nominated by: Laura Ryan



**Albert H.
Fulcher**

College Major: Journalism

Educational Goal: Master's degree in Journalism.

Life Goals: To be a writer and a teacher.

Special interests, achievements, contributions: My children and grandchildren. AA in journalism and AA in Microsoft information Specialist. San Diego Men's Chorus, volunteer for WILDCOAST, SWC Student's Veteran Organization. National Society of Professional Journalists writing awards.

In one sentence, how would you like others to remember you: My daily deeds will create my legacy.

Nominated by: Max Branscomb



**Jeff
Hillman**

College Major: Theater/Performance

Educational Goal: Bachelor of Arts in Theater.

Life Goals: To produce and direct culturally-relevant films while maintaining a well-rounded life.

Special interests, achievements, contributions: I have an interest in quantum string theory, art of all kinds and storytelling in all its myriad forms. Volunteer at I Love a Clean San Diego events, Paradise Hills Public Library and by raising environmental awareness through entertainment. My proudest achievement, short of earning my bachelor's degree, is making a living as a performer.

In one sentence, how would you like others to remember you: Jeff made me laugh.

Nominated by: Max Branscomb



Juliet
Apodaca
Kardell

College Major: Fine Art

Educational Goal: MFA with an emphasis in Photography and Metal Arts.

Life Goals: To teach art at a high school or community college. Use my education and experience as a registered nurse to provide art therapy. Act as a positive influence on the lives of those around me.

Special interests, achievements, contributions: SWC ADN Class of 2000, Psi Beta Honor Society, SWC Photography and Metal Arts clubs, National Student Nurses' Association, National Association of Hispanic Nurses.

In one sentence, how would you like others to remember you: As a person with a passion for learning and growth who was willing to challenge herself.

Nominated by: Sherilyn Salahuddin



Gabriela
Ortega

College Major: Criminology

Educational Goal: Earn a Bachelor's degree in criminology and a Master's degree in counseling.

Life Goals: Earning my degree to make a difference with my work in the criminal justice field. Live, learn and make my family proud.

Special interests, achievements, contributions: Nu Alpha Omega Criminal Justice Association and volunteering as a juror for the USD's Mock Trials. National Basketball Olympics in Mexico, and 2007-08 SWC Women's Basketball Team.

In one sentence, how would you like others to remember you: A determined, ambitious person no matter what challenges she encountered.

Nominated by: Sylvia Felan-Gonzales, Ed Cosio and Gary Creason.



Christina
V. Ortiz

College Major: Accounting

Educational Goal: Master's degree in accounting. Certified Public Accountant.

Life Goals: To become a better person, to have a better life. To help my relatives economically, own a business and start my own family.

Special interests, achievements, contributions: Travel to France, Spain and Russia. Learn French, Italian and Japanese. SWC President's List.

In one sentence, how would you like others to remember you: A strong, persistent, gentle and trustworthy woman who fought to achieve her goals.

Nominated by: Janelle Williams and Alexander Juden



Daniela
Padilla

College Major: Journalism with a minor in Photography

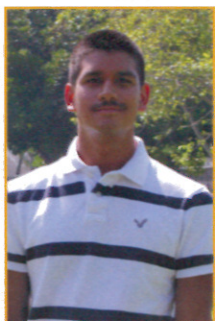
Educational Goal: Bachelor's degree in journalism, CSU Chico.

Life Goals: To work at a prestigious newspaper as a photojournalist and win a Pulitzer Prize. To take photos in every part of the world.

Special interests, achievements, contributions: Editorial Board of The Southwestern Sun. Photo Editor. Society of Professional Journalists National Excellence in Journalism Award for Best Collegiate News Photo.

In one sentence, how would you like others to remember you: She was always very motivated and followed her dreams.

Nominated by: Max Branscomb



**Michael
Pelayo**

College Major: Business Administration (Emphasis in Accounting)

Educational Goal: Bachelor's degree, and probably an MBA after that.

Life Goals: Finish my education. I want to enjoy my career working with numbers and have music as the spice of my life. Fitness is a lifelong commitment. I will stay in shape and keep my mind sharp.

Special interests, achievements, contributions: I play the violin in the SWC Mariachi Garibaldi and the SWC Chamber Orchestra. I am also a member of the SWC Swim Team and coach a youth swim team in my community of City Heights.

In one sentence, how would you like others to remember you: I want to be known as someone who cares about others and leads by example.

Nominated by: Terry Davis



**Alfredo
Perez**

College Major: Chemistry/Biochemistry

Educational Goal: Earn a Ph.D. and become a professor one day.

Life Goals: Have a healthy life and contribute to Earth by researching areas related to the preservation of the planet.

Special interests, achievements, contributions: I am interested in science and music. Especially biochemistry and the Blues.

In one sentence, how would you like others to remember you:

I would like people to remember me as an honest person.

Nominated by: Mimi Rasky and Dr. Raga Bakhiet



**Margie
Reese**

College Major: Journalism

Educational Goal: Bachelor's degree in Journalism

Life Goals: To publish an autobiography as well as a book on cancer issues from a patient's perspective and alternative methods of treatment. My most cherished goal is to live well and to do it until I am 100 years old!

Special interests, achievements, contributions: Philanthropy and giving back to the community. Music and learning about other people and their cultures. Chicano-Latino Coalition Scholarship (2010) for community service. Housing Advisory Commission Member. Nice Guys Charity Committee. Founding member and ICC representative of ASTRA (2010). Member of Student Veterans Organization. JACC Writing Award.

In one sentence, how would you like others to remember you:

I would like to be remembered as an earth-angel with fair-minded ethics who cared more for others than she did for herself, always smiling and one who never stops reaching for her dreams.

Nominated by: Max Branscomb



**Joseph
Silva**

College Major: Business Administration (MNGT)

Educational Goal: Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, emphasis in management, from SDSU.

Life Goals: Graduate from SDSU. Commission as a U.S. Army Logistics Officer.

Special interests, achievements, contributions: Seven years active duty in the U.S. Navy. Two deployments to hazardous duty. Physical and mental workouts.

In one sentence, how would you like others to remember you: As a goal-oriented, hard-working, dedicated and contributing member of society.

Nominated by: Sherilyn Salahuddin and Alexander Juden



**Samantha
Raquel
Tellez**

College Major: English

Educational Goal: Master's degree in English, Teaching Credential.

Life Goals: Serve as a high school English teacher in the South Bay, then teach overseas. Open schools in poverty-stricken nations to provide opportunities for young students eager to learn.

Special interests, achievements, contributions: Spending time with family, reading, painting and volunteering. Assistant Viewpoints Editor of the SWC Sun Newspaper. Exhibited artist. Active member of the Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society. Volunteered for a Chula Vista City Council member, Volunteer San Diego and San Diego Storefront Shelter for homeless teens.

In one sentence, how would you like others to remember you:
As a sincere, dedicated hard worker with patience and perseverance.

Nominated by: Max Branscomb



**Martin
Vela**

College Major: English (Creative Writing)

Educational Goal: MFA. Become an English professor at SWC for the Puente Program. Write a book.

Life Goals: A rewarding career that allows me to live uncompromised. Besides that I'm just playing it by ear.

Special interests, achievements, contributions: Afro-Cuban percussion, reading, writing and telling jokes. Participating in the Puente Program, volunteering with the Border Angels and working with other students pursuing higher education.

In one sentence, how would you like others to remember you: Remember me as I was, flawed or ...

Nominated by: Kathy Parrish and Cecilia Medina



**Tonetta
Marie
Webb**

College Major: Psychology and Business Management/Entrepreneurship

Educational Goal: Master's degree in Psychology, emphasis I/O Psychology.

Life Goals: To give back to the communities that have helped me and the organizations that supported my endeavors. I want to assist those who believe that change is too difficult.

Special interests, achievements, contributions: I enjoy working with people from ages 0 to 99. To know that my presence provides a positive effect and is the greatest gift I can give. SWC Vice President's List, ASO Academic Award, Soroptimist Award, EOPs Award, Business Plan Competition (Top 10). My greatest accomplishment is being my children's role model.

In one sentence, how would you like others to remember you: Her smile compliments her life.

Nominated by: Diana Avila and Sherilyn Salahuddin



**Lynette T.
Zeckua**

College Major: Spanish

Educational Goal: Transfer to San Diego State University. Bachelor's Degree in Spanish/M.A. Drug Counselor.

Life Goals: To work with organizations whose goal is to help the less fortunate.

Special interests, achievements, contributions: Staying healthy and training with the SWC Cross Country Team. Helping teenagers stay away from drugs. President's Honor List four times. Academic Athlete of the Year 2005-2006. Enrolled in Honors Program at SWC. Member of the Phi Theta Kappa International Honors Society and Psi Beta National Honor Society in Psychology. Continuing to volunteer with the SWC Service Learning Program.

In one sentence, how would you like others to remember you: As an energetic woman who is persistent in reaching her goals and who enjoys helping others.

Nominated by: Danielle McAneney