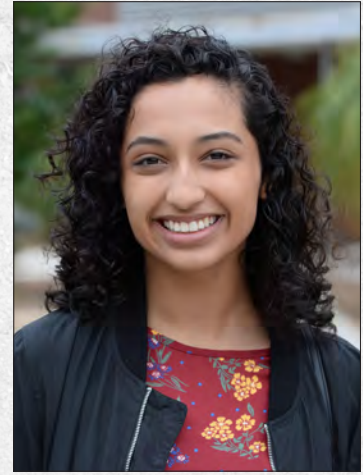


Counseling 107H was my door of opportunity. Being a first generation college student, the only real “college advice” I heard was “Go to college”. I had no clue what to do from there. Through Counseling 107H, I found the advice I was looking for, without actually looking. Also, attending CLEEO workshops became my favorite thing to be a part of and got to witness first hand, successful, first generation, not just college graduates, but leaders of today’s generation. In the CLEEO Workshops, I learned two mottos; I reflect on and try to live by as a reminder that I can make it. That “Excellence is in our history, it’s in our community, and it’s in our blood” and “Excellence is responsibility. Accept it. Own it.” Through Counseling A107H and CLEEO, We, the students, created a club, Ollin, meaning moving forward with all your heart. The connection I formed with people in this class was beyond the surface of friendship. We connected at the core of our roots, coming together to create and move forward with all our hearts as one.

- Stephanie Hernandez



My name is Elvin Martinez, I was 17 years old, and still in high school when I first met Mr. Cuellar. He assisted me in finding classes. I was both nervous and excited to begin college. Had no idea what to expect, but my fears were alleviated when I stepped into Counseling A107. Mr. Cuellar’s voice provided a tone of familiarity equal to that of a friend, which was very comforting. When class began, I was even more intrigued. He spoke of Mestizaje and Cultura, along with the importance of note taking and reviewing. During class, Mr. Cuellar mentioned the CLEEO; CLEEO has academic workshops that are extremely motivational and feature visiting professors from universities, who interact profoundly with the students and faculty. Never have I been more informed about issues that impact society today.

- Elvin Martinez



I attended a CLEEO Summit presentation in the Fall semester of 2016, in which Dr. Marcelo Suarez-Orozco, Dean of the Graduate School of Education and Information Studies at UCLA, gave an extraordinary lecture with such depth. I realized that I could not continue to sit by the sidelines and passively make my way towards graduation. I joined CLEEO, which has deepened my understanding of my identity as Latino student, as well as the importance of multiculturalism. CLEEO has motivated me to continue my education, and to strive for my full potential. I am now attending Cal State Fullerton with a major in Philosophy, with the aspiration of obtaining a Law degree. I hope to one day to be an instrument of equity and engagement in the community. I am thankful for the opportunity to participate in the program and all who make it possible, and a special thanks to Mr. Cuellar for his dedication and leadership.

- Jarold Ramirez

