



Ken Cai meeting our president.



Emina Becirovic meeting our president.



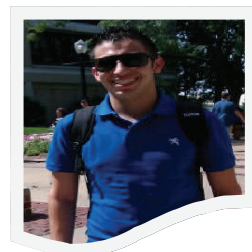
Steele Valenzuela meeting our president.

TRiO
STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Hoots and Salutes!



Congratulations to **Stephen Waters** who was one of six students who received the Creighton Presidential Scholarship. This mentoring scholarship is designed to encourage and develop some of the University's top students to be competitive in applying for national and international scholarships and fellowships.



Congratulations **Martin Estrada** who was promoted from GSA secretary to vice president!



Congratulations to **Emina Becirovic** who was accepted to the 2012 Loyola University Chicago Stritch

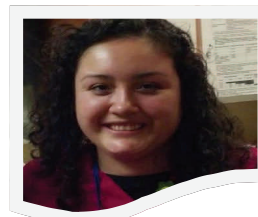
School of Medicine Summer Enrichment Program (SEP).



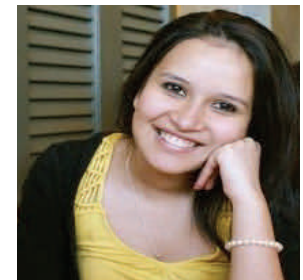
Congratulations to **Steele Valenzuela** who was accepted into a summer internship at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health to research Native American health disparities.



Congratulations to **Asmita Padyual** and **Daisy Liberato** for being accepted as scholars into UNMC's Summer Medical and Dental Education Program.



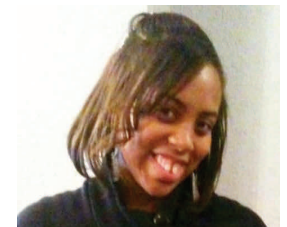
Congratulations to **Monica Ibarra** who is going to the Dominican Republic this summer as an assistant coordinator for the ILAC program.



Congratulations to **Yashwee KC** who will be doing research in the Internal Medicine department at UNMC.

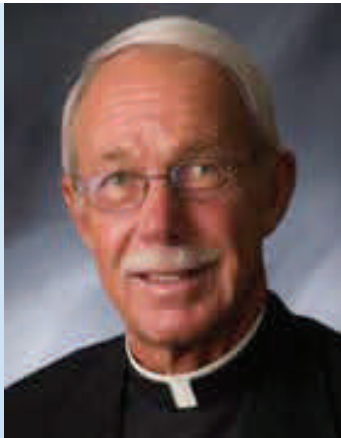


Congratulations to **Lili Mac** and **Daisy Liberato**. Both will become Ratio Studiorum Program (RSP) Decurions in the Fall of 2012.



Congratulations to **Tiffanesha Williams** who was accepted in the MA program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Northern Illinois University. She has decided to attend Northern Illinois University in the fall.

Lunch with Reverend Timothy Lannon, S.J.



Reverend John Schlegel, SJ



Reverend Timothy Lannon, SJ



Reverend Timothy Lannon, SJ
meeting Kelsey Ham

In 2005, **Reverend John Schlegel, SJ**, began a SSS tradition: an annual lunch to recognize SSS students for their involvement in SSS and their achievements and to offer an opportunity to get to know their president on a personal level.

This tradition quickly became a favorite among SSS students. The students look forward to dining with their president for a formal meal and relaxed conversation. Our new president, **Reverend Timothy Lannon, S.J.** has continued this tradition by hosting his first lunch with SSS students on Tuesday, March 20, 2012. Meet the students who had the opportunity to dine with Reverend Lannon, S.J.

Emina Becirovic: *Chemistry, Senior.*

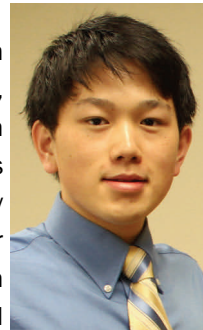
Emina and her family relocated to Omaha in 2001 from Bosnia. She started in the fifth grade and learned English within a year. At Creighton, she is studying biological sciences and philosophy, and will apply to medical school this summer. She is actively involved in the community and on campus.



She dedicated over 300 service hours at the Weigel Williamson Low Vision Clinic and assists Sudanese Refugees. For the last two years, she worked at the Creighton Preventive Medicine Center and served as an executive member for the Pre-Medical Society. Her parents are her inspiration and motivation to improve her community and to reach for a better life for all.

Jian Lei Ken Cai: *Pharmacy 1st Year.*

I'm from Rapid City, South Dakota. As early as my junior year in high school, I have discovered my passion in the health care field. Additionally, my passion was strengthened when I started volunteering in the inpatient pharmacy department at Creighton University Medical Center. I am currently serving as the Public Relation officer for the American Pharmacist Association, ASP chapter. I joined this organization to continue to educate and improve myself and to serve as a united voice for all Creighton pharmacy students. My decision to attend Creighton University is one of



the greatest decisions I have made, and I'm looking forward to the next three exciting years.

Martín Estrada: *Sociology-Criminal Justice Track, Anthropology, Native American Studies, Sophomore*

I am from Kansas City, Missouri. I came to Creighton because of the Diversity



Scholarship. At Creighton, I have been involved in a number of organizations and programs. I play the viola in the Creighton Orchestra, I'm the Treasurer of the Gender and Sexuality Alliance, and a Trainer for the Creighton Allies Program. I've played the viola since 5th grade and was thrilled to see a music program at Creighton in which I could continue my love for music. This year, I won the Mr. BlueJay pageant representing the GSA. My passion in life is equal rights, especially for the gay community. I'm involved in several organizations that advocate for equal rights. I am a member of Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha, and every day I strive for individuality and diversity.

Lunch with Reverend Lannon, S.J. Cont.



Brian Kokensparger receiving his award.



Mary Longo receiving her award



Dylan Fills Pipe receiving his award.

Dylan Fills Pipe: *Native American Studies & Health Administration Policy, Junior*

My name is Dylan Fills Pipe; I am the son of Irma Ten Fingers and the late Barry Fills Pipe. I am the fourth child of five kids in my family. I have two sisters and two brothers. I am a member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe. I am from the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. I am a senior double majoring in Health Administration and Policy and Native American Studies with a minor in Public Health. I am a Gates Millennium Scholar. I was the first member of my family to attend college. I am involved with the Native American Association and helping plan the annual pow wow.



Kelsey Ham: *Journalism, Public Relations and News, Junior*



I am from Chandler, Arizona (a suburb of Phoenix). I am the oldest of six kids and am currently work in the Student Life office in addition to being an intern in the Marketing and Public Relations office at Creighton. As an intern, I write press releases and assist the event planning staff. I am also very involved in my sorority, Delta Zeta, and the Panhellenic Council as a whole. This year I am Delta Zeta's parent relations chair. As the parent relations chair, I organized Parents Weekend as well as act as the main contact between the sorority and parents through newsletters that go out each semester. In the Panhellenic Council, I have been involved as a recruitment mentor (Rho Mu) during the 2012 women's formal recruitment. I am passionate about family, sweets, and anything that involves having an adventurous spirit.

Kiera Hirayama: *Nursing, Sophomore*



My hometown is about 3,000 miles away, on the beautiful island of Oahu. For eighteen years I was a resident of Honolulu, Hawaii, and there are so many things about home that I love. Something that I enjoy about Hawaii is the many outdoor activities that are available: swimming at the beach, going for a hike, camping. I also enjoy spending time with my family and friends, watching movies, and reading good novels. I decided to attend Creighton because of the reputation of the Nursing School. Now looking back as a sophomore, I know that it was one of the best decisions I have made. Although it was quite a cultural shock, I have enjoyed my time in Omaha. My nursing professors and advisors have always been so helpful and have made an effort to make sure that I will succeed and achieve my goals. I know that with their support and guidance, I will achieve one of my main goals in life and become a Geriatric Nurse Practitioner.





Yueshi Lin



Steele Valenzuela



Stephen Waters

Lunch with Reverend Lannon, S.J. Cont.

Yueshi Lin: *Chemistry, Sophomore*

I graduated from President William McKinley High school in Honolulu, Hawaii, in May, 2011. I did not always live in Hawaii; I was born and raised in China until our family moved to Hawaii eight years ago. I'm fluent in both Cantonese and Mandarin, I also speak two Chinese dialects. Transitioning from China to Hawaii was a difficult time for our family because we didn't speak any English, but we slowly immersed ourselves in the new culture and things got better through time. Both of my parents now work at Chinese restaurants, and I have a younger sister who is a freshman in high school. My educational goal is to get admitted into the Creighton Pharmacy School by my junior year, and my career goal is to become a pharmacist. I'm currently a

volunteer at the Creighton Medical center, member of MAPS, HCOP, APO, Hui O Hawaii, and Korean Student Association. My hobbies are photography and listening to music. I like being outdoors, and I also enjoy having quiet time by myself in my room.

Steele Valenzuela: *Mathematics, Political Science Minor, Senior*

I am from the cornfields of Nebraska. I grew up in Decatur, Nebraska, a border town to the Omaha Nation reservation. I would like to attend graduate school in statistics/biostatistics and eventually land a career in Washington D.C. working in health policy. Ultimately, I would like to work in Indian Health Services and change the landscape of healthcare for marginalized populations. I am involved with the Gateway program as a mentor and immersion participant. My involvement includes tutor and grader for Mathematics

Dept, CUSTARS, member and former treasurer of Creighton University Latino Student Association, member and former Risk Manager for Phi Delta Theta, and Decurion for Dr. Michel Mallenby.

Stephen Waters: *Communications, Pre-Law Track, University College*

I am the only son of Carolyn Sue Waters and the late Stephen James Johnson and also the proud father of, Imani P. Waters. I was born in 1972 in Los Angeles and raised in the urban communities of Staten Island, New York. I have experienced and overcome many of the trials that life can challenge a person with. I returned to school with the aspirations of attending and completing law school. Afterwards I will pursue a career in International Criminal Law. Three things that motivate me are love for God, love for family, and service to all.



SSS Recognition Ceremony Award Recipients



Martin Estrada with his awards.



Rocio Mujica, Tami Buffalohead-McGill, and Nermina Demirovic.



Lupe Gomez with his award.

SPIRIT OF SAINT IGNATIUS AWARD: *Recognizes a student who consistently demonstrated integrity, courage, justice, compassion, and selfless dedication to others.*



Tai Hoang with Fr. Bucko, SJ.

Tai Hoang is the Vice President of Peer2Peer mentoring program. In addition to serving in a leadership position, he has consistently served as a mentor for incoming SSS students. Tai is dedicated to giving back as evidenced by his involvement in many service projects. Tai embodies the Jesuit values which are present in his interactions with others through service, leadership, mentoring, and tutoring. He is committed to making positive change in our world. He participated in a Gateway Immersion Trip on the Rosebud reservation and was co-coordinator for a Gateway Immersion Trip to Eagle Butte, SD, on the Cheyenne River reservation. He also participated in a CCSJ service trip to Stroud,

OK. He is a regular volunteer for our Saturday Gateway Workshops and serves as a Gates Millennium Scholarship mentor by helping high school students apply for this challenging scholarship. Tai has participated in the Relay for Life and volunteers at the Creighton University medical Center in the Pharmacy department and Fountain View Senior Living community. Tai demonstrates *Cura Personalis* to his peers, professors, and everyone he encounters. He demonstrates great care and compassion for others. The time and patience he exhibits when interacting with others, especially those who require extra care and patience, is remarkable. Tai is very open and embraces other cultures, which is apparent in his involvement with the CU Latino Student Association and Asian Student Association. He has also been on the Arts and Sciences Dean's Service Honor roll.

REV. JOHN P. MARKOE, S.J.
AWARD: *A leadership award designed to recognize an outstanding leader who has made a significant contribution to the promotion of justice and unity.*

Martin Estrada plans to become an attorney and promote legal and social justice. He is an exceptional student and is on the Dean's list with a 3.90 GPA. He is

triple majoring in Sociology—Criminal Justice Track, Anthropology, and Native American Studies. Martin is a leader. Martin is one of the founding members of a Latino Fraternity, Sigma Lambda Beta. He is actively involved with social justice issues through his involvement in the Creighton Allies Program as a trainer, as a Gateway mentor, Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA) treasurer, and Markoe Diversity Leadership program participant. As a trainer for the Creighton Allies Program he helps educate students, faculty, and staff to increase awareness of discrimination and social injustice on our campus and in the community. As a Gateway mentor, he volunteered to help facilitate college access for low income, minority high school juniors and seniors by helping them set goals, develop résumés, and edit their college and scholarship essays. As treasurer for the GSA, he helps educate the Creighton campus and Omaha community to increase awareness and look at ordinances and laws that negatively impact the gay community. He is in the Markoe Diversity Leadership program and plays in the Creighton Orchestra, was a Ratio Studiorum Beadle, and is a student worker in SSS.

SSS Recognition Ceremony Award Recipients

ACHIEVER: Recognizes a student for demonstrating exceptional academic achievement, superior character, service to others, leadership, and commitment to the mission of Student Support Services

Danielle Turner puts significant effort into her education because she loves learning and is passionate about making a difference. Her high academic achievement and commitment to service secured her membership in Alpha Sigma Nu. After earning her Bachelor of Arts in Spanish and Secondary Education, she plans to secure employment in a low-income school. It is her goal to ignite student's passion by giving them a reason to love learning. After spending several years working in the classroom she plans to obtain her endorsement of English as a Second Language. She wants to work with students that have limited English proficiency. She eventually



hopes to earn a Master's degree in Linguistics and study the origins, structures, and evolutions of the many languages spoken around the world. Her ultimate goal once she retires from working in the United States is to travel to third-world countries in order to teach young children English. Danielle is an active member of the Creighton University Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and serves as Historian. She was a Ratio Studiorum Program Decurion and is a Peer-2-Peer Mentor. She mentors a Student Support Services incoming

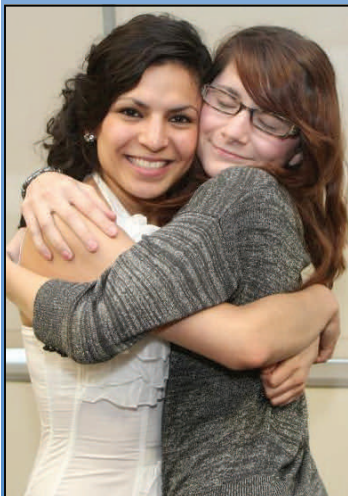
student with the transition to college. Danielle served incoming students as a New Student Orientation Summer Preview Guide. Danielle's religious foundation is essential in guiding her actions and her life. She passes this on to others by serving as a Pastoral Aid at the Assembly of the Saints Inc. She helps as a clerical assistant whereby she ensures security posts are properly made, runs errands as needed, and performs other duties as needed. Danielle also serves as a leader and mentor for the Assembly of the Saints Inc. Girls Youth Group. As a Youth Group Leader/Mentor she plans seasonal retreats and recreational activities, organizes fundraiser activities, and prepares proposals for Youth Group Supervisor. Danielle also holds two jobs. She works at the Creighton University Russell Child Development Center and as a student teacher and works at the Sunglass Hut in Oak view Mall.



Tami and Danielle Turner.



Tiffanesha Williams presenting on her SSS experience.



Rocio Mujica and Nemina Demirovic.



SSS Recognition Ceremony Award Recipients



Lupe Gomez



Victoria Tsosie



Matthew Kor

DEDICATION: *Recognizes a student for demonstrating great dedication and persistence in academic studies who showed significant improvement and never gave up.*

Lupe Gomez is a quiet gentleman with a fantastic smile. While a good student, Lupe knew he had the potential to be a great student. This semester, he took the time to carefully analyze the study challenges in his classes, created appropriate study strategies, and most importantly, put them into practice. The fruits of his labor were a higher GPA and greater satisfaction and confidence.

Lupe understands more than most of us how computers work. He is also a talented artist, a skill he will use along with his computer science expertise. He has a unique goal of designing video games and I-pod apps—both require great computer skills, broad knowledge, and artistic ability. In Lupe, we honor a student with talent in art and science who exemplifies the the

determination of our students to work toward academic excellence.

Victoria Tsosie diligently worked to improve her grades from the 2011 spring semester to the 2011 fall semester. She utilized all the resources available to her and was able to make a significant improvement. She is also an active member in the Native American Association and Peer2Peer mentoring program. She volunteered at the Creighton Clean-UP and was an active volunteer and mentor for the Gateway Program and Gateway Immersion trips. In addition to her very busy academic and extracurricular schedule, she also finds time to work in the SSS office as a work-study student and as a server at Billy Blues Alumni Grill.

PACESETTER: *Recognizes a student who exhibits superior leadership and outstanding service to school and community*

Matthew Kor is not only a student who excels academically, but also he is equally involved in leadership and service to others. Matthew challenged himself

at Creighton by double majoring in Chemistry and Medical Anthropology. He also minored in Biology. He is in the Honors program and took a pre-medicine curriculum. Besides earning a place on the Dean's list, he has a generous spirit that leads him to engage in a wide variety of service and leadership. He is a member of Alpha Phi Omega Kappa Chi Chapter, Jays for Christ, Gateway mentoring program, and the Gateway Immersion Service trips. He attended the Gateway Immersion trip to Winnebago twice since he made such a significant impact on the students and they wanted him to return. He also volunteers at the Creighton University Medical Center, the Kapi'olani Medical Center in Hawaii, and the Bridge to Success Team Mates mentoring program. If that was not enough, he is also in the Pre-Medical Society, Multicultural Advisory Council, Asian Student Association, Hui O Hawaii Club, Biology Club, Math Club, Intramural Basketball, and Markoe Leadership Program. Matthew certainly set a rigorous pace while attending Creighton.



SSS Recognition Ceremony Award Recipients



Carmen Chagolla.



Kyle Simons.



Monica Ibarra.



Ahleen Marr.

PROMISE: *Recognizes First Year Students for exhibiting involvement in Student Support Services activities, dedication to academic success, initiative, and responsibility.*

Asmita Paudyal is organized, observant, resourceful, dedicated, and bright. Asmita has good time

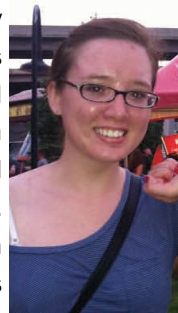


management and an attention to detail. She does an excellent job of setting and accomplishing her priorities which attributes to her successful academic achievement and involvement. Academically, Asmita is an extremely dedicated student who works to her full potential. Her dedication, study skills, and maturity contribute to her academic accomplishments. In addition to maintaining a strong academic record, Asmita is involved on campus and in the community. Asmita volunteers through Creighton University Dreaming assisting students at the Omaha Boys and Girls Club and is a Pediatric Nurses' Aide and Gift Shop cashier at the Creighton University Medical

Center. She attended the Fall Break Service Trip to Winnebago, NE, and the Spring Break Service Trip to Eagle Butte, SD, where she assisted students with their college goals. She is a member of the Delta, Delta, Delta sorority, Biology Club, the Minority Association of Pre-Health Students (MAPS), Pre-Med Society, and International Student Association. Next year, she will be a Welcome Week Beadle and a member of the Cortina program.

SSS AMBASADOR: *SSS is blessed with many remarkable students who help promote and advocate for the program. This award is to recognize those students who have gone above and beyond to promote and advance the mission of the SSS program.*

Sheila Field is habitually prompt, never misses work, and consistently competes assigned projects with minimal supervision. Her work often exceeds expectations.



Sheila is trustworthy, highly confidential, and well organized. These skills along with her attention to detail is why Sandy trusted her with progressively more administrative duties like



processing timesheets, developing and tabulating surveys, using Banner to obtain and keep student information and enter confidential student data into Student Access. Sheila embodies the definition of initiative—she consistently “exercises the power and ability to follow through energetically with a plan or task with determination.” She always provides insights into the students’ perspective which helps make our program more responsive to students’ needs. When Sheila works the front desk, the staff have fewer unnecessary interruptions because she has great problem solving skills and will address the call without the need to ask a staff member for direction. Sheila is a great advocate for SSS and a wonderful ambassador for the program.



Dilasha Neupane

SSS Recognition Ceremony Award Recipients

Gateway Ambassadors: The Gateway Ambassador award recognizes outstanding SSS students who have tirelessly dedicated their time and talents by assisting Gates Millennium Scholarship applicants with their rigorous scholarship application through mentoring, editing, and proofing essays.

Dilasha Neupane's caring and compassionate personality is very evident in the service to which she dedicates her time. As a Gates Scholar herself, she has been an avid advocate, volunteer, and mentor for the Gateway Program at Creighton. She has dedicated many Saturdays to attending Gateway workshops to help high school seniors complete the Gates Millennium Scholarship. In addition to the Saturday workshops, she would often provide the students with her e-mail address so that she could be reached about additional questions or for support on the application. Dilasha

also student led one of the Gateway Fall Break Immersion trips. She assisted Native American students at reservation high schools with the Gates Millennium Scholarships. Additionally, she also helped high school juniors and seniors set goals, develop résumés, and edit their essays. Upon her return from the immersion trip, she volunteered to continue providing support to the immersion students by becoming an e-mentor who works with the students via e-mail.

Jason Nguyen's work ethic, focus, and maturity make him a model student and leader. Jason has a positive disposition and enjoys interacting with people from all backgrounds. Jason is a strong leader in many areas of his life and has successfully balanced his family, academic, extracurricular, and service activities. Jason holds the position of mentor for Peer2Peer and is active in RAISE (Recognizing American Indian Success in Education) and the Gateway mentoring and Immersion programs. His

fall and spring breaks were dedicated to serving as a volunteer by attending and coordinating the week long cultural immersion trip to the Winnebago, Navajo, and Rosebud/Pine Ridge reservations. For the Gateway Fall Break Immersion trips, he assisted Native American students at reservation high schools to complete the Gates Millennium Scholarships. He gave College Preparedness presentations because many Native American students do not believe college is an option for them. Jason served as a Gateway mentor by helping local, economically disadvantaged minority high school students apply for scholarships and college. Jason is also in the Markoe Leadership program, helped plan and coordinate the Campus Ministry Diversity retreats, and is a member of the Asian Student Association. Jason is a Gates Millennium, Diversity, Ignatius, and Magus Scholar who has earned the distinction of being on the Dean's List. Jason has earned and deserves the Gateway Ambassador award.



Jason Nguyen



Steven Buffalohead with his award.



SSS Recognition Ceremony Award Recipients



FACULTY AWARD: *This award recognizes and honors the outstanding achievements and contributions by a faculty member who has made a significant impact upon the students and mission of the Student Support Services program.*

Dr. Bruce Mattson made a significant contribution to the SSS program. Below is what Nhu Le has to say about Dr. Mattson.

"Dr. Mattson is a great professor. He is nice and caring. He makes the subject very interesting, using his own way of explanation and



demonstration. Moreover, he taught many SSS students.

Dr. Mattson was the first chemistry teacher I had when I came to Creighton. He made Gen Chem so fun, helpful, and easy to learn at the same time. I fell in love with chemistry even more because

of him. It was my favorite class to go to during my freshman year. One time, he even trusted me enough to let me handle the morning review/homework section. Dr. Mattson's class gave me more confidence to take higher level Chemistry classes and believe that I could handle more challenges.

Being an SSS student, I did not know what to expect in a college professor. Dr. Mattson made my college experience more enjoyable. He was approachable and it made students like me feel more welcomed and less shy when it comes to asking questions. He represented very well the education at Creighton. "



Dr. Bruce Mattson



Emmanuel Chavez.



Student Support Services

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**"Education is a companion
which no future can depress,
no crime can destroy, no
enemy can alienate it and no
nepotism can enslave."**

~Ropo Oguntimehin

SSS is one of the five federally funded TRIO programs at Creighton University under the Department of Educational Opportunity Programs. SSS is grant funded through the Department of Education to provide comprehensive services to help students achieve a successful college experience by increasing academic performance, retention, and graduation rates. SSS also works to foster an institutional climate supportive of the success of economically disadvantaged students, first generation students, and students with disabilities. The strength of the SSS program is providing comprehensive support to eligible students at Creighton University who have the ability and desire to succeed at Creighton University but would benefit from additional advocacy, academic, personal, financial, and career support. SSS is a resource that provides personalized and comprehensive support services for eligible participants to help them achieve their full potential.

Congratulations to our May 2012 Graduates

Melissa Arkema
Anthony Carrano
Carmen Chagolla
Tiffanesha Williams
Audrianna Edmonds
Akpeyedje Bijou Fidegnon
Sheila Field
Loc Hoang
Kelsey Holmes
Monica Ibarra
Juan Jaimes
Khloe Keele
Jenna Klung
Matthew Kor
Amy Lan Anh Dao

Patrick Lam
Ashleen Marr
Rocio Mujica
Lily Ng
Quang Nguyen
Son Nam Nguyen
LeBree Perry
Joshua Pieper
Emmalyn Pilande
Vanessa Rodriguez
Kyle Simon
Lynn Tu Tran
Teresa Vu
Tiffanesha Williams