



EDUCATIONAL
OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM
CSU BAKERSFIELD

First Gen Excellence



**High-achieving student, mother, professional:
Victoria has done it all...**

This month's Graduate Profile highlights a star that continues to rise. Victoria Garcia came to CSUB as an EOP Summer Bridge participant in 2019, enjoying just one semester of in-person classes before being sent home for the pandemic quarantine. Over the next four years, Victoria became a mother to her handsome son Elijah, excelled in all of her Criminal Justice coursework, and graduated from CSUB!

From cradle to career, she remains unstoppable

Victoria now works for the Department of Human Services, processing intake applications. It's a humbling experience because she was once on the other side of the glass. Every morning, kids huddle, clinging to the legs of their parents just as she once did--no money, no food, facing eviction--coming to Victoria for answers and receiving compassionate support.

Victoria Garcia

- East High School, Bakersfield, CA
- EOP Summer Bridge Participant
- EOP & GSP Graduate
- Bachelor's in Criminal Justice, CSUB
- Human Services Technician,
County of Kern, Bakersfield

Working in EOP allowed Victoria to see that she's not alone or unusual at CSUB. "It gets better. You're not stuck if you're open to opportunities." As a recent graduate, she faced tons of doubt and discouragement, and she didn't just walk into a great job out of college. Her advice to EOP students? "College isn't about *just passing*; it's about *learning*." Overcoming adversity, defying odds, achieving educational excellence, leading with empathy, and advocating for the marginalized...Victoria epitomizes the EOP graduate experience.