

Esmeralda Escoto
Chicano and Latin American Studies
2014 Outstanding Graduate



The Department of Chicano and Latin American Studies is proud to name Esmeralda Escoto as its Outstanding Graduating Senior for 2014. Esmeralda is a double major (Spanish and CLAS) and will be pursuing a Masters of Science in School Counseling here at Fresno State come fall 2014. A longtime resident of Sanger, Esmeralda is fluent in Spanish and has a strong passion for civic and community engagement.

A first generation Mexican-American, and the first in her family to attend college, Esmeralda is fueled by her passion to help students navigate the oftentimes tricky terrain of education because she believes that “education is very important” and has made it her priority to “be able to help other students in the community and provide them with the necessary tools to be able to attend a university so that they may accomplish their dreams and goals in life.”

The daughter of farm workers, Esmeralda spent several years as a young child toiling besides her parents and knows firsthand what it feels like to labor for hours under the hot sun for very little pay. Because of this, she is determined to help students by serving as an advocate for the underrepresented and the marginalized in order to best help them accomplish their dreams through education.

Despite double-majoring and taking a full load of course work, her familial obligations, and many personal challenges, Esmeralda has found time to volunteer in the community with the American Red-Cross here in the Central Valley. It is this civic engagement, coupled with a strong desire to make a difference in the world and the pursuit and attainment of academic excellence that moved the Department of Chicano and Latin American Studies to name Esmeralda Escoto its Outstanding Graduating Senior.

We are all exceedingly proud of her. No other student embodies more the ideals of our department. Esmeralda will be missed, but we have all the faith and confidence in her and know that she will continue to inspire those lucky enough to come in contact with her. Esmeralda, on behalf of the Department of Chicano and Latin American Studies at Fresno State, we wish you luck and know that you will continue to shine!