



CALIFORNIA
STATE
UNIVERSITY,
FRESNO

Maria Ortega



Maria Ortega Reyes has completed a **DOUBLE MAJOR** in Political Science (4.0 GPA) and Sociology (3.833 GPA), achieving an **overall GPA of 3.893**. While having been undocumented for the majority of her life, Maria has overcome a number of obstacles and recently learned that she was admitted to the Ph.D. Program in Sociology at Brown University for fall 2014.

Maria has excelled in her studies in both of her social science majors, using her time management skills and ability to work under pressure. She was inducted into the **Alpha Kappa Delta International Sociology Honor Society** in December 2013. Maria has been exposed to theoretical perspectives in both sociology and political thought, completed two statistics courses and two methods courses, covering both quantitative and qualitative methods. In spring 2014, Maria enrolled in a course on computer data analysis to further enhance her skills in **utilizing SPSS and N-Vivo software** while engaging in additional research and allowing her to earn the **Certificate in Applied Research**.

Complementing her scholarly abilities, Maria's long-term and sustained commitment to serving others is abundantly evident, dating back to 2008, during her high school years at Edison, up through her senior year at Fresno State (2014). **She has dedicated volunteer time to helping her community—at the local, statewide, and national levels.** **Locally**, Maria served as an intern with the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California (ACLU) in Fresno during the spring 2011 semester.

Locally and **statewide**, Maria has been involved with Californians for Justice since 2008—"a statewide grassroots organization working to empower communities that have been pushed to the margins of the political process in California"—having served as Youth Board Chair and Governance and Nominations Chair, and been involved in financial management, oversight of the annual budget, and strategic planning. **Nationally**, Maria was elected as the Central Valley Region Youth Representative with the Alliance for Educational Justice (AEJ) for 2011 and lobbied in Washington, D.C. for additional funding for education and policy change, including a "Student Bill of Rights."

Maria has also been involved in issues affecting her ethnic community—**both on campus and in the community**—through the **Mexican American Political Association** (MAPA) and **Movimiento Estudiantil Chicana/o de Aztlan** (MEChA).

Department of Sociology
Humanics Program

5340 N. Campus Dr. M/S SS97
Fresno, CA 93740-8019

559-278-2891
Fax 559-278-6468
www.fresnostate.edu/sociology
www.fresnostate.edu/ah
<http://www.fresnoah.org>

THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

Maria has also gone beyond just direct service and advocacy in her community engagement, having founded *Hijas de Malintzin*—a women’s circle to discuss issues affecting women in our community centered on indigenous traditions and teachings.

Maria has been a Sally Casanova Scholar, Jesse L. Rushing Scholar, Bette Peterson Scholar, Ronald E. McNair Scholar, and Smittcamp Scholar. As important, Maria’s community engagement at the local, state, and national levels—through a number of different organizations, concerning a variety of social justice issues—is exceptional. Maria is an outstanding representative of our College of Social Sciences because she will be able to contribute to the academic discipline of social science as well as her community, through service and advocacy, in a significant way.

Prepared by Dr. Matthew Ari Jendian
Professor & Chair of Sociology