

# EBCAN SPOTLIGHT



## SAVE THE DATE

September 27  
1-3 pm

EBCAN Annual Convening  
with CC, LPC, and CSUEB

## In this issue:

- Student Profiles
- EBCAN Events
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  - Financial Aid & Transfer Workshops
- EBCAN Transfer Study

East Bay CAN, a partnership between CLPCCD and CSUEB, launched in Spring 2020 to increase certificate and degree attainment for Chabot College, Las Positas College, and CSUEB students.

In this third volume of EBCAN Spotlight, students are featured. Current and past CLPCCD students share stories about their transfer journey to CSUEB, lessons learned, and what's ahead.

## STUDENT FEATURES



### JESUS

Chabot College graduate, current CSUEB Student

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#### His Advice:

*"You can't control what things are going on around you, but you can control your reaction and how you take advantage of the things around you."*



### TATIANA

Las Positas College and CSUEB Graduate, Aspiring Speech Pathologist lined up for a Master's Degree

Tatiana Salazar embarked on her college journey with a powerful drive for higher education, but with an unknown destination. It was at Las Positas College that her future crystallized — a calling to be a speech pathologist. [Read on.](#)

#### Her Advice:

*"Ask yourself: what am I prioritizing this week? You are just as important as any assignment due or test coming up. You cannot be the best you without addressing yourself. Learning to focus on what you're prioritizing in the week will help filter the noise of everyday life."*



### NATASHA

Chabot College Graduate, incoming CSUEB Student

Natasha Ureta is wrapping up her AAT in Psychology at Chabot and is admitted to CSUEB with her sights set on a future in clinical psychology. She's looking forward to attending a beautiful campus she's already built a familiarity with while taking summer English classes. But the path to this point was one of immense growth. [Read on.](#)

#### Her Advice:

*"Introduce yourself to your teacher so they know who you are, and if you need help, you feel more comfortable asking...Or email them if you don't want to talk to them in person."*

# EBCAN EVENTS

## CSUEB CAMPUS TOUR

Terrance Thompson from the Las Positas Transfer Center got the engine running on an 8-seater van under the mid-April sun. Las Positas students piled in for a trip through the green spring hills to the CSUEB, where they enjoyed an exclusive tour of the campus. Counseling and Transfer Center staff from CSUEB and Las Positas College collaborated to beta test new tour elements. Not only did students get to explore the housing, facilities, and local hotspots, but Thompson introduced them to key CSUEB contacts for Extended Opportunity Program & Services (EOP&S). The student feedback confirmed the value of becoming familiar with these resources and CSUEB will continue to examine how to further integrate information in future tours. At the end of the day, the students could envision themselves at CSUEB and gained confidence in their decision to apply and attend.



California State University, East Bay campus.

### LPC Students respond to the question: “What was your favorite part of the CSUEB Campus Tour?”



Natalia  
Sociology

*“My favorite part of the CSUEB tour was meeting with EOP and hearing what different programs and resources they offer. Just being able to be more informed of the resources that are out there and the process to apply to them.”*



Dreanna  
Speech Pathology & Audiology

*“My favorite part of the tour was getting to meet with the different people of the programs that will help us. It made me more confident of the choice that I’ve made to actually go to CSUEB in the Fall.”*



Bolanle  
Public Health Science

*“It was a great opportunity for me to see the college, because I just moved from Nigeria and I’ve never been to any college...I will definitely apply to Cal State East Bay.”*



Lesley  
Psychology

*“This is the second to last college that I needed to visit before making a decision. I feel more confident in seeing the CSUEB campus before choosing it.”*

## FINANCIAL AID & TRANSFER STUDENTS

According to Frances Fon, counselor at Chabot College's Transfer Center, the one unspoken question that unsettles many students is how to pay for college. In partnership with Chabot and CSUEB Financial Aid, she leads sessions to alleviate stress, illuminate the different avenues for financial aid, and connect students with support and tools to maximize their college financial plan.

Counselor Fon took a pulse before and after the workshop to gauge the group's confidence level in their knowledge of paying for college. Before the session, students collectively hovered at the 2.8 mark on a 5 point scale. After the session, however, their combined confidence rating jumped an entire point to 3.8. Anonymous student feedback pointed to increased understanding of the financial aid timeline, as well as discovery of work study opportunities and helpful tools such as net price calculators. One participant remarked, "Thank you so much for this presentation. I was feeling totally lost before...now I know where to start."

This workshop is one of several EBCAN student support activities informed by data analysis to focus on closing gaps in the transitional experience for aspiring transfer students. Data from research and student focus groups has uncovered a need for increased financial guidance. To address these needs, EBCAN leaders are building systems that are informed by and responsive to student input and evidence.

## ADDITIONAL EVENTS

This spring, the Chabot and Las Positas Transfer Centers were bustling with workshops and events, aiming to fuse gaps for students as they close in on their transfer goals. As EBCAN supports deepen strategies to bridge the transfer experience, Chabot and Las Positas Colleges implement a blueprint composed of two phases. First, resources are provided that support early transfer exploration and properly inform and connect students preparing to apply the following year. Second, for those admitted, focused efforts guide the students' transition, ensure necessary items are complete, and connect students to a soft landing on the other side. Through these two phases of transfer readiness, students are more prepared to begin the transfer process, and more confident in managing the actual transition to their chosen school.



Students walking on Las Positas College campus.

For admitted CSUEB students from the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District, a series of events walked students through the steps of successfully transitioning to a university. Chabot College hosted the Transfer Applicant Series, a three-part progression of workshops that helped students navigate everything from financial aid to managing transfer decisions. It culminated in a warm hand-off to smooth the upcoming transition in Fall. Simultaneously, Las Positas College hosted Next Steps Workshops that achieved similar objectives for admitted students of CSUEB, along with neighboring colleges including San Jose State, San Francisco State, UC Davis, and UC Santa Barbara. With the efforts led by the EBCAN Collaborative, the Chabot College and Las Positas College Transfer Centers are piloting and evaluating student-centered transfer activities that can inform work with other universities.



# East Bay College Agile Network Transfer Study

During Summer 2021, eight Cal State East Bay faculty members conducted focus groups with a total of 58 transfer students to gain insights on the transfer student experience. Funded by the Koret Foundation.

## STRIDES SINCE SUMMER 2021

The infographic to the left shares data collected from CSUEB transfer students participating in faculty-led focus groups summer 2021. Since then, strides have been made to improve the transfer student experience and propel students through the transfer gate and beyond.

At Chabot College, Las Positas College, and CSUEB, new topical workshops help to clarify processes and offer students connections to a support network on all campuses. These workshops address each part of the journey, progressing through topics such as financial aid, scheduling sessions with advisors, and opportunities to connect with transfer ambassadors and affinity groups.

Efforts to establish clearer communication have advanced. CSUEB is completing Pioneer Bound, a tool that channels CSUEB transfer information directly to interested students. A dedicated Pioneer Bound web page has also been built, which centralizes transfer steps, resources, and contacts. Steps are distributed within four phases: Explore, Prepare/Plan, Apply, and Decide/Transition.

### Prior to their transfer into CSUEB



Unclear messaging from website, difficult to navigate



Community college and CSUEB counselors helped with transfer process



Affinity groups, as well as family, friends, and alumni provided support

### During their transfer process into CSUEB



Online orientation not well received, unable to connect with correct campus contacts



Road maps and college advisors helpful with enrollment



Unclear advising expectations for incoming transfers

### After their transfer into CSUEB



Transfer students felt campus to be diverse



Establishing connections with faculty was crucial to success



Meeting with advisors early resulted in students graduating sooner

### Recommendations



Clearer communications: website, messaging, and financial aid



A deliberate "hand off" from community colleges to CSUEB



More support with peer mentors, departments, advisors, and faculty



Increase connections with career services and program alumni



## JESUS

Chabot College graduate, current CSUEB Student

In his senior year of high school, Jesus Morales helped his friends write their futures. He offered feedback and guidance on their college essays. He cheered them on as they opened their acceptance letters. But at the time, he knew he didn't have the grades to participate in those rites of passage himself. His moment, however, was on the horizon.

He scrapped his original plan of going straight into construction work and gave Chabot College a try, where he built his own future instead. He managed a full-time job and full load of classes, sought support from teachers and counselors, discovered a community, and unearthed a calling for teaching English. One of the most exacting trials along the way was the passing of his grandmother. Jesus mourned, but knew that his grandmother would want him to keep moving forward. So when he and his family went to pay their respects in a remote Mexican village with no internet access, he wired his laptop to a phone hotspot with erratic signal to keep up with his classes. She wouldn't want his dreams to die with her, he realized.

In just two years, Jesus worked from grades that were "good enough for high school" to earning one of the highest grade point averages and achieving honors at Chabot College. And that's when his letters finally poured in. He was accepted to every university he applied for, but it was California State University, East Bay he ultimately chose. Now, he's finishing his first year at CSUEB as part of the Tau Sigma Honor Society.

Jesus reflects on the people who acted as links along his route. His Hayward High School counselor guided him to the Puente program at Chabot College, where those mentors guided him to GANAS at CSUEB. He cherishes the support from Ms. Genera at Chabot College. "She gave us the blueprint, and told us if we 'follow this plan accordingly, and actually give it [our] all, [we] will actually accomplish it...it's going to happen.' And when things start happening, it's kind of crazy that they actually do," he says. Jesus has now become one of those links himself as CSUEB transfer ambassador, where he helps others make the same leap he did.

### Jesus' Advice:

“ You can't control what things are going on around you, but you can control your reaction and how you take advantage of the things around you. ”



## TATIANA

Las Positas College and CSUEB Graduate, Aspiring Speech Pathologist lined up for a Master's Degree

Tatiana Salazar embarked on her college journey with a powerful drive for higher education, but with an unknown destination. It was at Las Positas College that her future crystallized — a calling to be a speech pathologist. Daunted by the realization that she'd ultimately need a master's degree, it took another seven years before Tatiana gained the confidence to make the critical transition to CSUEB, recalling the experience as scary “yet the pivotal moment in [her] life that [she] learned the most about [herself].”

At the Transfer Academy, a five-day program that sets incoming CSUEB transfer students up for success, Tatiana discovered a vast support system she had never expected, and a shift began. “I chose to learn as much as I could from anyone about everything and my life changed for the better,” she says. Inspired, she integrated herself into that network as a transfer ambassador, relaying support to others. Two years later, she earned her B.S. in Speech Pathology and Audiology from CSUEB as a first-generation student, traveled halfway across the world for an internship in Tanzania, and became a speech-language pathology assistant in the Bay Area.

Now, she's making that master's degree a reality. Having already been accepted to three schools and waitlisted for three more, Tatiana is deciding between her array of options for August 2022.

### Tatiana's Advice:

“*Learn to check in with yourself. Ask yourself: what am I prioritizing this week? You are just as important as any assignment due or test coming up. You cannot be the best you without addressing yourself. Learning to focus on what you're prioritizing in the week will help filter the noise of everyday life.*

*On LinkedIn, check the alumni of CSUEB or find people who do your dream job or work at the company you are interested in. When in doubt, you have me to look up on LinkedIn — bam, forever helper.*





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Natasha experienced a dramatic shift from high school to college, not only in the kind of study ethic required, but in the processes and procedures. Before, her high school counselors would notify teachers of her accommodation needs. Now, however, it is her responsibility and also empowers her to engage with her professors. "We have to actually advocate for ourselves [in college], because in high school, others would advocate for us," Natasha says.

Part of learning to advocate was also gaining the confidence to reach out and use the available resources. Natasha began introducing herself to her professors and taking advantage of math tutoring. She credits Counselor Linda Phan at Chabot's Accessibility Center for Education (ACE) with helping her to grow and setting her on the right path. To aid Natasha's success, Chabot College Counselor Phan provided the contact for her CSUEB Accessibility Center counterpart so Natasha could reach someone ready to assist after transfer.

Even with some new school jitters, Natasha is eager to continue her journey, learn from more psychology teachers with different perspectives, and carry forward the skills she's cultivated. "Advocating for yourself, you grow as a person...That's what Chabot taught me."

### Natasha's Advice:

“ Introduce yourself to your teacher so they know who you are, and if you need help, you feel more comfortable asking...Or email them if you don't want to talk to them in person and be like 'Hey, I'm in your class. I struggle with these things, maybe keep an eye out — or if I need help, I can always come in.' ”

