



Community Engagement Center

# CEC NEWSLETTER: AUGUST 2023

## Recap of Previous Events & Upcoming Service Events!



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### PREVIOUS SERVICE EVENTS

## Leadership and Service LLC Kick-Off!

Our outstanding Leadership and Service Bobcats took part in their first service project here in Merced!

13

26

Volunteers Hours of Service

They worked with Play Adventures Merced to restore a new playground space. This area will serve the Merced community as a non-profit pre-school!



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## PREVIOUS SERVICE EVENTS

### CEC and Margo F. Souza Leadership Center Staff Training







We had a blast  
meeting the  
seniors in our  
community!

Our Leadership and Service staff  
visited Park Merced Assisted  
Living for a non-alcoholic cocktail  
hour!



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### PREVIOUS SERVICE EVENTS

## CEC and Margo F. Souza Leadership Center Staff Training



**Bottom Row:** Kayla C (CEC), Jason A. (CEC), Jose L. (Leadership), Crystal V. (CollegeCorps), Faatimah M. (Leadership), Andrea T. (Associate Director of Student Leadership & Community Engagement)

**Middle Row:** Seraj S. (CollegeCorps), Vernetta D. (Director of the Student Leadership Center & Community Engagement Center), Debra F. (CollegeCorps), Kyla P. (CollegeCorps), Stephany B. (Leadership), David (CEC)

**Top Row:** Angelica (Leadership), Eliza S. (CollegeCorps), Naseem H. (CollegeCorps), Jacob O. (CollegeCorps)



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### PREVIOUS SERVICE EVENTS

## College Corps Pre-Service Orientation

Welcome 2023-24 College Corps Cohort 2 Fellows!



College Corps

#CaliforniansForAll

Over 100 fellows attended the mandatory Pre-Service Orientation on Friday, August 25 - Sunday, August 27. Our fellows are ready to serve our Merced County community in the focus areas of: Education, Climate Action & Food Insecurity.

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## MEET STEPHANY!

### Stephany M. Barrera



**Pronouns:** she/they

**Position:** Assistant Director of the  
Margo F. Souza Center

**Education:** M.Ed. in Student Affairs;  
B.A in Chicana/o and Central  
American Studies

Born and raised in South Los Angeles in a Mexican/Nicaraguan low-income household, Stephany became the first in her family to attend and graduate from college. As a first-generation, queer woman of color, she faced many obstacles and struggled throughout her academic journey. As a response to financial hardship and her commitment to students, she worked multiple jobs to finance her education.

Within these roles, she provided direct support to students of color by teaching college seminars, advising students 1:1, mentoring students, organizing admit weekends and Latinx graduations, facilitated workshops on diversity, equity, and inclusion to students, and advocated for student needs in access and retention. Her contributions on campus led to policy changes regarding better student working conditions, administrative transparency and accountability, and more funding toward student retention services.

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## MEET STEPHANY!

### A Message From Stephany!

"Hi Bobcats! My name is Stephany Barrera and I am the new Assistant Director of the Margo F. Souza Student Leadership Center. That means I'm one of the people on campus you can come to for all things leadership! The Souza Leadership Center is your space to develop your leadership skills, gain tangible experience, and engage with your peers, campus partners, and community in an effort to create a more equitable world. We are a space that embraces the leader in YOU and celebrates every part of your intersecting identities to engage in meaningful leadership on and off campus. If you're interested in learning more about the Souza Leadership Center or want to learn to get involved, please pay me a visit at KL 172 or you can email us at [lead@ucmerced.edu!](mailto:lead@ucmerced.edu)"



On a more personal note, I am so excited to be here! I am just a girl who LOVES spending time with her family and friends. I enjoy thrifting, karaoke, cooking up a new TikTok recipe, watching the latest Marvel movie, and keeping up with all the pop culture trends! You'll usually find me sipping on my coffee/matcha while working on my laptop or rushing to my next meeting. :D



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## PREVIOUS SERVICE EVENTS

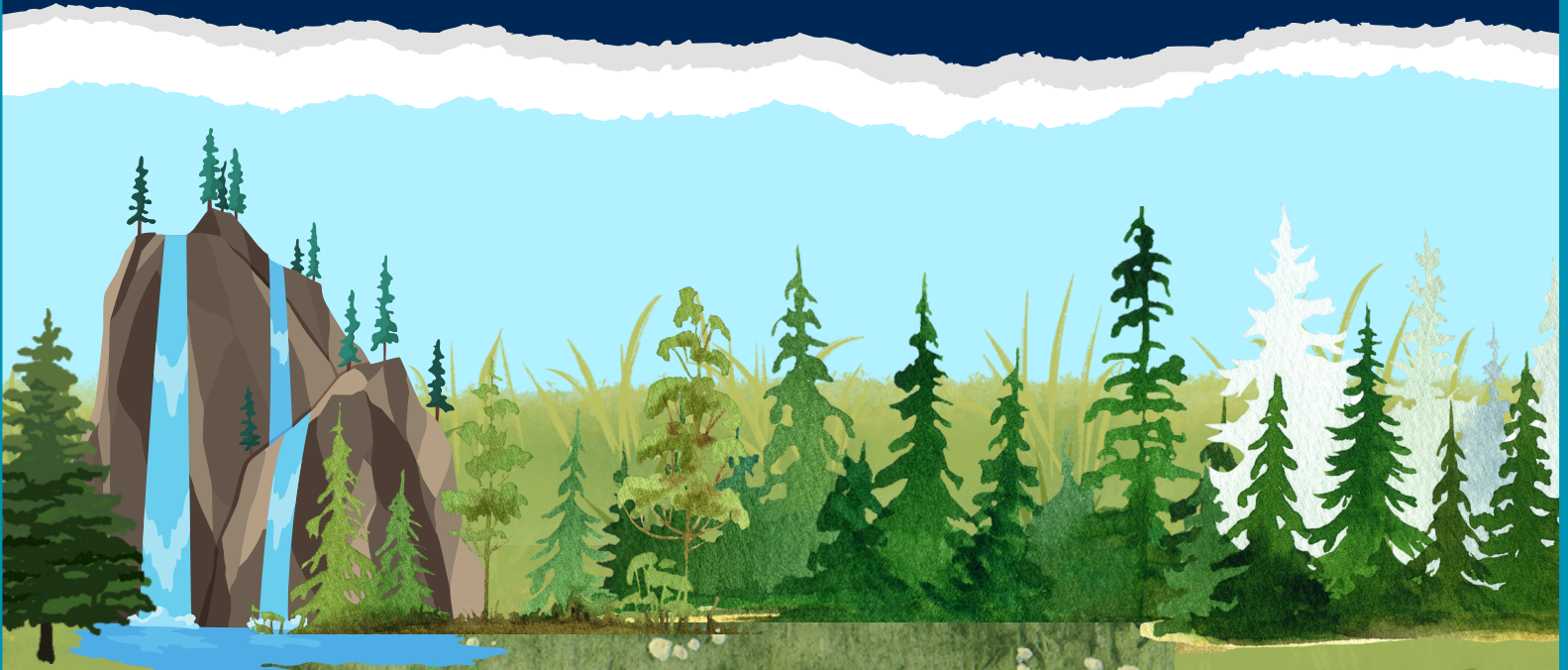
# Yosemite Facelift!

A \$10 cash deposit will be required to secure a spot on the bus. Students will receive their deposit back during the event!

Bobcats! Yosemite Facelift will be happening on September 23rd. Join us on our trip to Yosemite National Park for a day-long service project.



Registration opens Friday, September 15th at 8am in KL 190. Registration in-person only!





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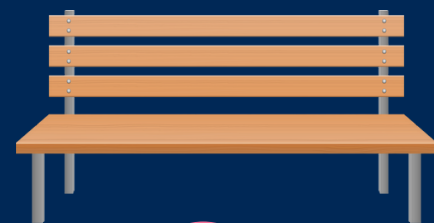
### PREVIOUS SERVICE EVENTS

# Fahrens Park Cleanup!

The CEC is partnering with the city of Merced for the Fahren's Park Clean-up! You are invited to join us Saturday, September 30th from 9 AM - 12 PM for the Fahren's Park Clean-up & a short lunch after 12 PM - 1 PM to commemorate the service hosted by our mayor, Matt Serratto. Transportation will be provided for this event, but is limited!



Scan the QR for registration and more info!!



For any questions or concerns feel free to email us at [communityservice@ucmerced.edu](mailto:communityservice@ucmerced.edu) or visit our office at KL190