

2018 \$3,000 SCAG Community College Scholarship Winner: Marissa Renteria



Marissa Renteria (SCAG Community College Scholarship Winner)

Studying environmental engineering at the Los Angeles Trade Technical College, Ms. Renteria currently carries a 4.0 GPA. She looks to use her academic achievements to transfer within the next year to a four-year institution and earn both a bachelor's and master's degree in environmental engineering. Discerning and adventurous, Ms. Renteria makes no small plans. Take, for example, her self-designed calling. "Helping humankind understand and thus become more mindful of a world we call home...I'd like to implement exponentially more concise recycling programs to inform the public about proper waste disposal. Not to mention, design more cost-efficient water filtration systems that would not even fortuitously leave people—anywhere in the world, mind you—without clean water, a basic human resource. Having tutored elementary school children, I would indeed like to start a non-profit organization that promotes the importance of not only S.T.E.M. education but S.T.E.A.M. education along with informing a younger generation of National Park preservation."

Wow. Though her interests are vast, they are matched equally by her energy, work ethic, and commitment to her ideals. "I aspire to conduct off-site ecological research to disperse unbiased scientific facts to the public and dismantle politicized, special-interest motivated falsehoods. This I hope to achieve and, with plenty of people—enthusiasts, students, and professionals alike—who are bound to the same truth." Clearly, Ms. Renteria fosters grand dreams. But those who know her believe she can deliver on them.

"Marissa is a one-of-a-kind student that loves to learn, is passionate about helping the environment and is determined to prepare herself academically so she can make an impact in the field of environmental science," explains Dr. Velveth Klee, Professor of Physics and Engineering at the Los Angeles Trade Technical College. "I am impressed by Marissa's willingness and patience to help others achieve an understanding of the material presented..."

"...Part of Marissa's passion for working in the field of environmental science is driven by her commitment to educate her community, especially women and those that are underrepresented in higher education. She has expressed interest in creating programs for those that are in high-poverty areas and in most-need, such as the community that LATTC serves...I am certain we will continue to see Marissa in some capacity volunteering her time to promote the importance of STEM fields."

Throughout out her academic career, Ms. Renteria has always sought to not only improve the environment, but also to bring together people in the pursuit of effecting positive change. And that sounds strikingly similar to SCAG's basic mission. For this reason and many more, SCAG is proud to name Marissa Renteria winner of the 2018 \$3,000 SCAG Community College Scholarship.