

## WTS-LA \$5,000 Jacobs Undergraduate Scholarship winner Evonnie Estrada



*Evonnie Estrada (WTS-LA \$5,000 Jacobs Undergraduate Scholarship winner), 2019*

“Transportation is what keeps us moving. It is what keeps us all connected. And I want to be a part of what makes a difference in people’s everyday lives,” explains WTS-LA \$5,000 Jacobs Undergraduate Scholarship recipient Evonnie Estrada. Evonnie just completed an internship at Metro through COMTO [Conference of Minority Transportation Officials]. “When I heard about [COMTO], I knew I wanted to be a part of it because their mission was closely related to my own personal goals. Through this program, I was also given the opportunity to travel to Florida for their annual national conference...I had the honor of meeting all of the COMTO board members, as well as some professionals from companies all around the United States. I learned so much through this conference, but the most important thing that I learned was that pursuing a career in the transportation field is definitely for me.”

Estrada is the first member of her family to go to college. And she plans to take full advantage of the opportunity college promises. A senior at Cal Poly Pomona in computer information systems, Estrada will graduate in June 2020. She looks to obtain her master’s degree in transportation planning after that. With stellar academics and an incredible work history so far, Estrada looks to deliver on that promise.

According to Metro Finance Executive Officer Cary M. Stevens, “I have known Evonnie since she first came to work in my department as a summer intern as part of our Transportation Career Academy Program while she was in high school. I then hired her after she completed high school...Overall, we have worked side-by-side for over 4 years. She is a dedicated employee who has steadily evolved as a very knowledgeable member of our automated fare collection team.” Stevens is not inflating Estrada’s accomplishments. He adds, “Evonnie is one of only four Metro employees that are capable of programming and testing the complex fare structures used by 24 municipal agencies throughout the Los Angeles region...She has a passion for improving transportation and years of experience with Metro operations.”

Metro Senior Manager Monique Pe agrees. She adds, “Evonnie has worked under my leadership for over 4 years...She is known to be flexible, a team player, and has been instrumental at taking a primary assisting role at implementing a wide range of diverse projects...I am confident that Evonnie will make a positive impact in the movement in leading young individuals to the world of transportation.”