

Outstanding Mentor 2021



Erik Ramirez, Dreamer Resource Center

Erik exemplifies what it means to be an outstanding mentor, particularly during the last year and a half. He is passionate, dedicated, and supportive, and his commitment to empowering others is evident in his work as Lead Coordinator of Strategic Student Support Programs (SSSP) and Program Coordinator of the Dreamer Resource Center (DRC).

As Lead Coordinator of SSSP, Erik provides work guidance and support to Coordinators of the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP), Multi-Cultural Center, Pride Center, Serna Center and Women's Resource Center. He answers questions, serves as a sounding board for ideas, and meets with individual Coordinators to provide tailored guidance. In doing so, Erik exemplifies true mentorship. His passion and dedication are evident in his incredibly fast response time to any question or concern, his ability to make situations an opportunity for learning and growth, and his willingness to spend the extra time offering individualized support.

Erik also creates opportunities for professional development and enables SSSP Coordinators to maximize their potential. He has taken it upon himself to develop trainings on assessment and evaluation, student engagement strategies, public speaking and other topics that are critical to the success of a Program Coordinator. Erik also takes an equitable approach to mentorship. For example, Coordinators recently submitted grant applications for community-based projects. Erik met with each Coordinator to answer questions and brainstorm ideas. He also spent hours offering feedback, explaining suggested edits, and ensuring that each Coordinator understood the grant process and strengthened their writing abilities. In short, he used this as an opportunity for Coordinators to develop their talents and skills. This illustrates Erik's approach to mentoring others – he invests time and energy, shares knowledge and insight, and creates opportunities for growth. He also challenges mentees to think outside the box, problem solve creatively, and strive for excellence. In doing so, he empowers others to maximize their potential.

Erik also serves as a mentor to students. As a first-generation professional and a DREAMer, Erik has taken to mentoring undocumented students who are interested in pursuing a graduate degree. He invests time and effort outside of his general work responsibilities to help young immigrants explore their academic and professional goals beyond a bachelor's degree. He helps mentees envision themselves in graduate school, coaches them through the graduate school application process, and serves as a support system to help these mentees get through graduate school.

All and all, Erik is a powerful mentor to professional staff and students. His commitment to empowering others and "paying it forward" enhances the educational experiences and development of several people at Sacramento State. He is a hard-working equity champion, and through his mentorship, he works against systems that hinder the success of others.