



CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH!

In honor of Women's History Month we're paying tribute to the more than 400 women who made history by choosing to venture to Washington DC as a Cal State DC Scholar. They have quickly become influential voices for federal, state and local governments, Fortune 500 companies, top consulting firms and non-profits throughout the country. It is the shoulders of these scholars the next generation will stand upon. Thank you!



MEET ANA

Ana Vergara Neal's passion for public service was solidified during her Summer 2006 experience as a DC Scholar. After serving two months in a Congressional Office, Neal graduated from Cal State Fullerton and began her career as an executive for the City of Garden Grove. As a Senior Administrative Analyst, she has taken on challenging, but highly rewarding assignments, including developing the City's 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan. It is her strong belief in service that keeps her involved with LULAC, Toastmasters and Soroptimist International of Garden Grove.



BIG NEWS

The Cal State DC Scholars Program is excited to announce its first ever Master Class Series! Through this intimate digital experience, Cal State DC Scholars and alumni will ask global leaders the important questions about the challenges our world faces as well as how to be successful in the business world. These one hour specials, created and produced by 2012 DC Scholar Eliza Ramirez will discuss a broad range of topics and tackle audiences' most pressing questions with a live Q and A at the end of each segment. Stay tuned for the first Master Class Series, "Leadership Challenges in a 21st Century".



MEET RAISA

It was her experience as one of the first DC Scholars in 2006 that Raisa Orleans claims, "put me on a glide path to where I am today. Without a doubt, I owe most of my professional success to the doors that were opened to me and the experience I had through the Cal State DC Scholars program." Beginning her career in public service as an intern with the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges, Raisa is now working with both policymakers and business leaders to create bold solutions for a cleaner and healthier world as the Director of Government Affairs for the Environmental Defense Fund.

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WASHINGTON- April 2014 Former Secretary of Transportation/Commerce Norman Mineta and California Cherry Blossom Princess Kelly Kim at a wreath laying ceremony at the Japanese American Memorial, honoring those who were victims of forced relocation during World War II.

THE BEST OF DC: THE CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

As winter takes its last breath and spring begins to emerge from its rest, DC prepares for the annual Cherry Blossom Festival to celebrate a time of renewal as well as the enduring friendship between the people of the United States and Japan.

Thousands of tourists from around the world come to DC each year to take in the beauty and enjoy the nation's greatest springtime celebration including traditional and contemporary arts and culture events, natural beauty, community spirit, and most notably the Cherry Blossom Parade.

In 2014, one of our very own DC Scholars, Kelly (Kim) Sewell, was nominated to participate in the parade and be California's Cherry Blossom Princess. Sewell's initial response to this nomination was "Sorry, I don't do pageants." However, after some research she learned that this is nothing close to a pageant but a window into the international diplomatic world.

Each young woman who is selected to represent her state has an opportunity to participate in a week of professional development events, network with dignitaries, and contribute to the diplomatic relationship our country has with Japan.

"It was incredible to be part of the Cherry Blossom Princess Program and to stay connected with an impressive network of accomplished women", remarks Sewell. More than 3,000 women have served as Cherry Blossom Princesses since its founding 1948 and like Kelly (Kim) Sewell, move on to become leaders in government, business, science, education, and the arts worldwide.

Without the DC Scholars Program, Sewell says she doesn't know where she would be today. "My experience set me up for a permanent career with an executive agency and the network you have access to in the DC metro area is invaluable. I highly recommend students to get out of their comfort zones and experience life outside of the California bubble!"

WHAT SCHOLARS ARE SAYING...

"Being a DC Scholar has served as the foundation for my career." "It taught me how to navigate political and complex environments." And most importantly, being in Washington, D.C. helped me to better understand and start to reflect on my true purpose in what I wanted to do professionally in my career." **Carmen Drummond**

"It (the Cal State DC Scholars Program) gave me the confidence and connections ... to attend graduate school at George Washington University on a full scholarship." **Jennifer (Harris) Lewis**

"The skills and experiences I obtained from the Cal State DC Scholars Program shaped my future path." **Paulette Maskarino**

DONATIONS

We did it! More than 40 alumni and supporters of the Cal State DC Scholars Program joined other Titan's on Tuesday March 9th for #Titan's Give, contributing nearly \$8000. These contributions will help scholars defray the cost of travel to Washington DC and support the DC Scholars' immersion experiences. For those of you who missed the 24 hour day of giving, no worries check out the donate tab below.

A LETTER FROM OUR DEPUTY DIRECTOR:

"We are excited to announce that we have 21 students in our Summer 2021 Cal State DC cohort! After having to take a hiatus this past summer and this spring, we are looking forward to getting it going again (albeit virtually!). Our summer DC Scholars come from a variety of majors and their primary internship interests are legislative/policy focused. It has been a real challenge to find internships for them this summer (since university policy requires that they be virtual) so if you know of any virtual internships, please contact Dr. Stambough and I at dcinterns@fullerton.edu. We are continually grateful for your help and look forward to building an even more robust program in the future with the help of all of our incredible program alumni and friends." - **Dr. Meriem Doucette**

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