



## CCC STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES

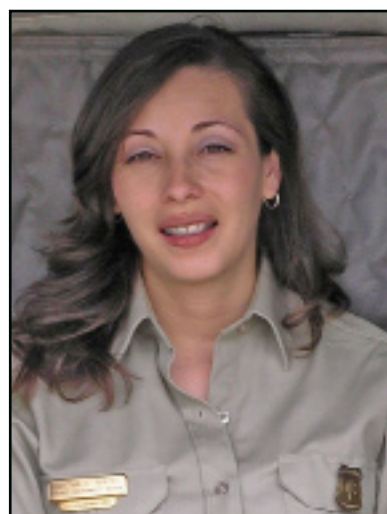
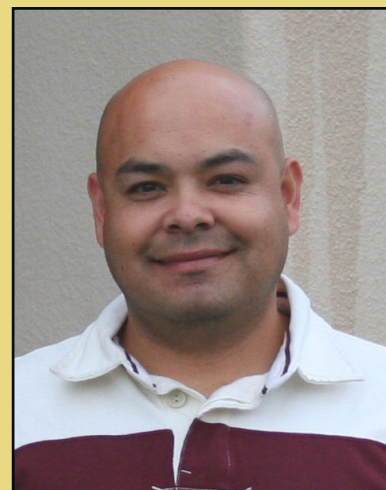
For the last 13 years, Central California Consortium (CCC) students have been knocking on the Forest Service's door in search of long term career opportunities and the CCC continues to open the door to these opportunities. Jim Oftedal has led this USDA Forest Service program to place over 600 diverse students since the inception of the program. Each year the program places talented and diverse students; mostly through the Student Temporary Education Program (summer position). In the last five years, over 10 Student Career Employment Program (SCEP) have converted successfully into permanent positions and have established themselves as successful Forest Service employees. With the success of the CCC, the region replicated the program to include two additional sites in northern and southern California; creating the new California Consortium. The CCC is based out of Clovis, CA; Northern California Consortium (NCC) is located in Willows, CA; and the Southern California Consortium (NCC) is located in Arcadia, CA.

Oftedal states, "It is reported that 40 to 50 percent of the current Forest Service workforce will be retiring in the next 5 to 10 years. This means we have an opportunity to recruit and place students from our program in an array of fields within the agency. The newly formed California Consortium is excited to build internal and external relationships in region 5 in an effort to create a talented and diverse applicant pool. We are very proud of our CCC Stars, as they have paved the way for future students to come. It is my pleasure to showcase some of the high quality students that the program has produced and continues to recruit. Please feel free to contact us to hire students or to learn more about the program."

## Ricardo Cisneros

Air Quality Specialist

Ricardo began his Forest Service career as a STEP over 9 years ago as a Biological Science Technician. He then accepted an Air Quality SCEP position. He completed his Masters in Public Health, Environmental Health option from CSU Fresno in 2004 and this May he will be graduating with his PhD in Environmental Systems from UC Merced. He currently serves as the Air Quality Specialist in Region 5 and is located at the Sierra National Forest, Supervisor's Office. Ricardo states, "I enjoy my job and I hope to have a long career with the Forest Service. I am very thankful to Jim and the CCC for informing me of my options and supporting me along the way".



## Martha Maciel

Public Affairs Specialist

Martha began her career in June 1999 as a public affairs intern for the Sierra Nevada Framework Project. She attended CSU Fresno and earned her Bachelors of Science in Agricultural Business. Later she attended CSU Sacramento, where she earned her Masters in Communication Studies and converted into a permanent employee through the SCEP program. She currently serves a Public Affairs Specialist and is located in the Regional Forester's Office in Sacramento. Martha plans to continue working for the Forest Service in public affairs. She states, "Working for the Forest Service has been a very exciting and rewarding experience. I've been involved with projects that I never imagined, from illegal marijuana eradication operations to helping victims of wildfires. I'm grateful to the

CCC for introducing me to the Forest Service."

## Mike Pasillas

Firefighter

Mike began his Forest Service career as a STEP on the Stanislaus National Forest in May of 2000. He served as a firefighter on Dorrington Engine 22. In May of 2001 he accepted a Fire SCEP position in Fuels Management on the Sierra National Forest. In May of 2002 he graduated from Reedley College with an Associate of Arts degree in General Studies and converted to a Fuels Technician Position. Over the past few years he has served as a senior firefighter on a Fire Engine, a Fire Prevention Technician, and Assistant Fire Engine Operator on the Sierra National Forest. He was a member of the 2007 Redding Inter-agency Hotshot Crew. He currently serves as a Fire Engine Operator and is located on the Sequoia National Forest at Pinehurst Engine 31. In the future he hopes to become a forest fire management officer.

Mike states, "I am very thankful to the CCC for giving me the opportunity to showcase my skills. Without the CCC, I would have never had this opportunity. I am really proud work for the Forest Service. I love my job and I couldn't imagine doing anything else."





## Raul Moreno, Jr.

Firefighter

Raul began his career as a STEP on the Sierra National Forest in June 2001. He served as a firefighter on the Rincon Fire Crew. Later, he accepted a fire SCEP position on the Sierra National Forest serving as firefighter with the Kings River Hotshots and Big Creek Engine 32. During his internship also served as a dispatcher at Sierra Emergency Command Center. In May of 2007, Raul graduated from Reedley College with an Associate in Science degree. Currently he serves as a Senior Firefighter with the Horseshoe Meadow Hotshots. In the future he hopes to become a district ranger. Raul states, "The CCC offers opportunities, where students can get Forest Service jobs while continuing their education. I enjoy working in fire because I continue to learn and grow professionally and personally."

## Lily M. Nieves

CCC Program Specialist

Lily grew up in the rural community of Laton, CA. She graduated from CSU, Fresno with a Bachelors of Arts degree in Education with an option in Spanish. She began her career with the Forest Service in May of 2002 as a CCC STEP Program Assistant. After two years, she accepted a CCC SCEP position. After completing her Masters in Public Administration from CSU, Fresno in May of 2006, she converted into a permanent Program Specialist position. Lily is a key staff member as she assists the Director with the overall program, assists the California Consortium with key projects, and serves as the CCC staff leader. She states, "I have worked for the Forest Service for more than 6 years now and it has been a positive and rewarding experience. I honestly never thought I would work for the agency, but now I can see myself growing professionally with the organization for years to come. I am very grateful to the program for introducing me to the Forest Service. It is definitely an agency that one can be proud to work for."



## Kelly Ebert

Civil Engineering

Kelly began her career with the Forest Service as a STEP, over four years ago. She worked as a firefighter on the Sierra and Stanislaus National Forests before accepting a Civil Engineering SCEP on the Sierra National Forest in 2006. She graduated in 2007 with a Bachelors of Science in Civil Engineering from CSU Fresno and was then converted into a permanent position on the Eldorado National Forest as a Civil Engineer. During fire season she also works as a burned area emergency response team member. Her career goals include one day becoming a forest engineer, district ranger, and forest supervisor. Kelly states, "The CCC provided me the opportunity and support I was looking for. They went above and beyond to help me get a job and I am very thankful. Soon

after I started working for the Forest Service I knew I wanted to spend my career here. The Forest Service provides a lot of opportunities to network, travel, and explore different job opportunities."



## Fabian Garcia

SCC Program Manager

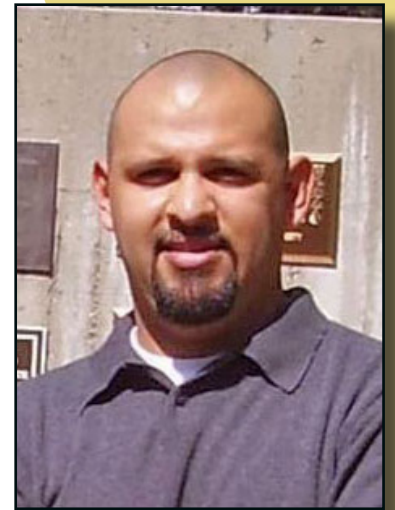
Fabian began working for the Forest Service in the summer of 2004, when he had recently graduated from UCLA with a Bachelors of Arts in Chicana/o Studies. Fabian was born and raised in Dinuba, a small farming town in California. He was hired on as a STEP with the CCC staff. He soon accepted a SCEP and after completing Certification in Nonprofit Management and Leadership at CSU Fresno, he converted into a permanent position. After 3 years of committed service to the CCC, he was accepted the Southern California Consortium (SCC) Director position located in Arcadia, at the Angeles National Forest Headquarters. Fabian is currently in his first year at CSU, Los Angeles pursuing his Masters degree in Educational Foundations. Fabian states, "I am thankful to Jim Oftedal

and the CCC for helping me start my career with the Forest Service. After 3 years of working for CCC, I am now the SCC Program Manager and I helping replicate the good work of the CCC."

## Cesar Sanchez

Landscape Architect

Cesar has worked for the Forest Service for 3 years. He was born and raised in Reedley, CA; a small agricultural town. In August 2004, he was hired as a Civil Engineer Technician (STEP) on the Los Padres National Forest to work under the forest landscape architect. In June 2005, he converted to a Student Trainee Landscape Architect (SCEP) position on the Los Padres National Forest. He is currently in a permanent position as the Forest Landscape Architect for the Sierra National Forest. Cesar graduated from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in June 2007, where he earned a Bachelors of Science of Landscape Architecture with a concentration in recreation, open space planning and design. Cesar says, "I was introduced to the Generation Green program, the Forest Service, and the field of landscape architecture in high school. I even served as Smokey Bear at the Sacramento Fair. My long term goal is to become a Forest Supervisor. I am thankful to Jim Oftedal and the CCC staff."



## Richard Anthony Tellis

Law Enforcement Officer

Richard became employed with the Forest Service as a temporary Biological Tech Assistant in 2002, while completing his AS from Reedley College. In 2003, he worked as a temporary firefighter on an engine crew and transferred to CSU, Fresno to pursue a Bachelors of Science degree in Biology with an Ecological emphasis. In 2004, he accepted a SCEP position on the Kings River Hotshots and later became a Senior Firefighter on SNF Engine 42. In 2007, he graduated from CSU, Fresno with his Biology degree and he was the first in his entire family to do so. He recently accepted a Law Enforcement Officer position on the Sequoia National Forest. Richard states, "I have worked hard to pursue my life long career goal. I thank God for all the blessings, strength, and knowledge he has given me.; my wife and new son

for their support; and Jim Oftedal of the CCC for investing in me and making my career possible."

## Julissa Gonzalez

CCC Job Placement Coordinator

Julissa was a business student attending CSU, Fresno, when she first heard about the USDA, Forest Service, Central CA Consortium and applied for an internship through the Sid Craig School of Business for college credits. The CCC selected her as an intern for the Fire Management Unit on the Sierra National Forest, where she served as the Training Assistant for over 2 years. She completed her Bachelors of Science in Business Administration, with an option in Human Resources. In 2007, Julissa joined the CCC staff as the Job Placement Coordinator through the Federal Career Intern Program. Julissa states, "The CCC gave me an opportunity to advance my career and discover my true passion for my community and the environment. The CCC has changed my life and my career direction. I am grateful that they took a chance on me, and I could not be happier with my position."



## Juana Rosas

CCC Rural Coordinator

Juana is from Orange Cove, CA but she graduated from Reedley High School, where she was a member of Generation Green. Juana's first job focused on fire prevention at the Sacramento State Fair. Juana graduated in 2005 with a Bachelors of Arts degree in International Area Studies emphasis in Latin America from UC Berkeley. She then worked for Fresno County as a benefits case worker for over a year. In 2007, she was hired on as the CCC Rural Coordinator through a SCEP appointment. She works in Orange Cove High School and Reedley High School. She is currently pursuing her Masters in Spanish Literature and her career goal is to some day become a Forest Service translator. "The CCC has opened my eyes to possibilities for a brighter future. I never thought that I, a past farm worker, would be able to get to travel the US and be part of such a great agency."



*To Hire a Student or for More Information:*

Central California Consortium  
1600 Tollhouse Road  
Clovis, Ca 93611  
(559) 297-0706 ext. 4962  
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/ccc/>

Editor: Lily M. Nieves

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