

August 10, 2014



Upcoming Events

08.22.14 Career Expo

09.18.14 OCCHC/SteppingUP Board Meeting

09.20.14 P.A.D.R.E. Conference at Chapman University

10.07.14 OCCHC/SteppingUP Advisory Board Meeting

10.11.14 CAP Career Day

10.28.14 Annual Resident Advisory Committee Meeting

Quick Links

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Dear Friend,

"I'm already thinking about applying to Sacramento State, UC Santa Cruz, and Stanford," says Alex, a senior from Huntington Beach. We're sitting at a restaurant on iconic Telegraph Avenue just a few blocks from UC Berkeley. It's day 4 of SteppingUP's Northern California College Tour.



CAP students and chaperones at UC Berkeley

It is hard to believe that seven years ago, OCCHC/SteppingUP's College Awareness Program (CAP) hosted their first college tour. Just like this year's tour, it was jam-packed with colleges, student panels, and cultural excursions. For most students, it was the first time in their lives being away from home, outside of Orange County. Students like Oscar Rodriguez who I remember would enthusiastically ask questions to tour guides and do his best to look and act like a college student during the trip. Did I mention he is now an Academic Advisor with CAP?

"Do you know my sister?" asks a student sitting next to me. I study her face. It's familiar. Her older sister was a junior during our first college tour. Genesis snaps a selfie on her phone and sends it to her sister.

I jump from table to table introducing myself to students and discussing their favorite things about the trip thus far. Their excitement is contagious. Their eyes brighten as they watch an eccentric man with a tie dye shirt and hemp pants walk past the restaurant. I remind them that they are in Downtown Berkeley and a few of the girls giggle. The students are different, but the impact is the same.

10 universities. 40 students. 7 days. It's hard to believe that 7 days can change lives, but it can and it does. I think about the former CAP students who excitedly called me to tell me they are going to

San Jose State. I think about Oscar, a former CAP student, who is now a staff member and advisor. And I'm reminded by Alex from Huntington Beach who has 3 more universities he can include on his application list.

It was only day 4 of the Northern Trip. As I watched the bus travel down Telegraph, I am also reminded that this isn't just a college tour, it's a bus full of dreams, opportunities, and aspirations waiting to be seized.

- Andrew "Drew" Ollero

Andrew Ollero was a former Academic Advisor with the College Awareness Program. He is currently the Assistant Director for the MBA Program at UC Berkeley.



Save the Date!

Introducing OCCHC/SteppingUP's
new social enterprise:

Testing Services

September 4th, 2014

4:00 PM — 7:00 PM

2024 N. Broadway Street Suite 100
Santa Ana, 92706

Click [here](#) to RSVP for the event!

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Santa Ana, CA 92706-2623

to transition extremely low-income families toward greater self-sufficiency by assisting them with housing and education

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