



The inaugural E Center program has kicked off and both interns are exceeding all expectations.

Thanks to the gracious grant award from the Sutter County Community Action Agency, E Center has created an environment for Sutter County residents who are currently enrolled in college to experience a variety of nonprofit disciplines that will help them define their career choices and opportunities. All will work up to 20 hours per week for four months. The grant gives us the ability to impact up to six current college students.

Mayra Cuevas has chosen Early Childhood Education (ECE) as her career path. After several weeks working under the tutelage of Melissa Murphy-Correa, she has blossomed through her hands-on experience with toddlers. She is even more certain that this is her calling and is thrilled to couple theory with practice. She appreciated the flexibility and friendliness of staff and parents. Add to this that she is interested in a career with E Center...we could not be happier. Next up for Myra...working side-by-side with our Education Coordinators who design and implement curriculum.



Ely Juarez is currently working with E Center's Business Development and Grant Director, Ricky



Samayoa. Ely is a senior at Sonoma State and has chosen a path that will lead to a career in adult behavioral services. On her first day of internship, she filled up a whiteboard detailing the community assessment process. An absolute go-getter. As Ely is interested in human behavior, this experience gives her the knowledge of who and why we focus on underserved communities. Her next stop on the E Center trail will be with E Center's Program office. She will work hands on with those students who are on the autistic spectrum giving her a snapshot of behavioral issues that start at an early age. Couple this with theory and her employment at a local behavioral health facility, she feels this will make her a strong advocate for mental health.

Both interns love the fact that E Center has structured a program based on their needs, not the needs of the agency. As HR Director, Al Bonnenfant, states, "This is about the intern. Often times careers are chosen in school that don't necessarily pan out once in the workforce. We want them to take a stab at a variety of opportunities to find their true passion. We have thoroughly enjoyed both Ely and Myra and are confident our community is stronger because of them."

E Center will start advertising for more interns beginning in April.