



G E O G R A P H Y

ALUMNI

Ana Gonzalez

Geographically speaking, where do you come from?

I was born in Mexico City and raised in South Los Angeles.

Where are you studying Geography now?

I recently graduated from UCLA with a BA in Geography and double minoring in (GIS) Geospatial Information Systems and Middle Eastern Studies.

How is Geography there different then at Cerritos?

The Geography Department at UCLA is fascinating and diverse from Food Studies to the Geography of Housing to Climatology. However I have met the most passionate Geog Professors at Cerritos aka Dr. Goode. However, one on one contact is easier at community college than it is at a UC. Nevertheless you have the opportunity to do research with a faculty professor and get funded for your ideas.

What type of Geography are you studying now? Do you have a specialty? Any research experience? If so, tell us about it.

I am interested in Political Geography and or Urban Geography. The beauty of geography is that it is so interdisciplinary and as result has allowed me to connect with professors in other departments. I have conducted "ethnographic research on Homelessness in the city of Boyle Heights for Chicano Studies", the "Israel/Palestine conflict and the creation of Social Movements such as (BDS) Boycott divestment and Sanction."

What would you tell a student at Cerritos College interested in potentially majoring in Geography?

Geography is such an imperative study and often it is undermined. However, geographers have really been at the forefront of groundbreaking research on climate change, economics and social geography. I would say explore the field because you will fall in love with everything there is to learn about our world and how we can also create a change through academia.

What do you hope to do professionally once you have your Geography degree?

I'm currently a Bilingual Research Coordinator for Bienestar a Human Services non-profit org that serves the Latino/a community & LGBT community with housing, food banks and HIV+ health services. Learning GIS has made me more passionate about spatial skills and how influential it is to have the skill to produce maps of the economy, the environment and human populations. After my gap year I plan to apply to PH.D programs in Geography at either Berkeley or UCLA.

