

Student Equity & Engagement Programs Dream Center

Aranza Bueno Verduzco

Submitted by Leslie Marin Juarez

When I hear the words Outstanding Student, I can't help but think of Aranza Bueno Verduzco. Aranza embodies everything this title represents—not only through her academic excellence but also in the way she carries herself through life's challenges with grace, resilience, and heart.

She is a beacon of positivity on campus, someone who leads with a warm smile and genuine kindness. Aranza doesn't just show up. She takes up space, encourages others to get involved, and uplifts her peers in such an inspiring way. She is the kind of student who makes others feel like they belong, and in doing so, makes our campus a better place.

Aranza has often told me that I've been a support system for her, but I want to honor the truth that she has done the same for me. On days that felt heavy, she showed up—with empathy, light, and an unspoken reminder of why we do what we do. She has left an undeniable impact on those around her, and is someone who I truly admire.

There is no doubt in my mind that Aranza will continue to shine at the next institution she chooses to call home. Her brilliance, both academically and personally, is undeniable. For all these reasons and more, it is my absolute honor to nominate Aranza Bueno Verduzco for Outstanding Student of the Year of the Dream Center.