

Student Equity & Engagement Programs Basic Needs Center

Jennifer Manriquez

Submitted by Alondra Lazaro Gonzalez

We are proud to recognize Jennifer Manriquez as the 2024–2025 Outstanding Student of the Year for the Basic Needs Center (BNC). Jennifer is a first-generation student and parent, currently pursuing a degree in Early Childhood Education. Her journey in higher education has been one of resilience, growth, and empowerment, and we have been truly honored to witness her transformation firsthand.

Jennifer represents what it means to be a leader, advocate, and changemaker. As a passionate student staff of the BNC, she has consistently used her voice to uplift others and ensure that students facing similar challenges feel seen, heard, and supported. When she recognized the lack of a student-parent community on campus, Jennifer took initiative and created one herself—a bi-weekly support group that has become a safe and welcoming space for other student-parents to connect, share, and thrive. The BNC team is forever thankful for her contributions.