

EOPS - NextUp Program

Evan Olivas

Submitted by Christina Lomeli

It is with great pride and admiration that we recognize Evan Olivas as SBCC's Outstanding Student of the Year for the NextUp Program, which supports current and former foster youth in overcoming the unique challenges they face on their academic journey.

Evan arrived on campus as a shy and reserved young man, still learning to trust in his own voice. But through the steady encouragement of the NextUp Program and the care of his loving foster parents and mentors, Evan began to grow - academically, personally, and professionally. His transformation over the years has been remarkable.

Despite the many challenges that come with navigating higher education as a former foster youth, Evan has never allowed his past to define him.

Instead, he used it as fuel to persevere and succeed. He worked hard, stayed focused, and gradually stepped into his potential with confidence and grace.

Today, Evan has successfully transferred to Cal State Channel Islands, where he is majoring in Business - a major he chose with a vision to create a stable, independent future for himself.

Evan's story is one of quiet strength, deep resilience, and steady transformation. He embodies the very spirit of what makes SBCC students outstanding - not just in academics, but in heart, perseverance, and purpose. I can think of no better student to honor with this award.