



Hi! My name is Priscilla Martinez, pronouns she/her/hers, and I am a 4th year Psychological Sciences and Criminology double major. A fun fact about me is that I enjoy doing my own Gel-X nails. It's been really fun and a hobby I started last spring since it is really relaxing.

Involvements at UCI:

- ANTCLU - General Member (2021)
- Student Outreach and Retention Center - Pathfinder Peer Educator (2021-2022)
- Student Outreach and Retention Center - Program Co-Director (2022-2023)

What has UCI taught you?

One thing that UCI has taught me is how much growth I am able to obtain and how I am able to implement all of the things I have learned at my job at the SOAR Center to learn how to help other students and make sure that their needs are seen in the resources that we offer. It has been a really great space to grow in, to learn from, and to be surrounded by community members who are very supportive. It's been a really uplifting space that I am very grateful to be a part of!

What has been the most fulfilling experience you have had in a leadership role?

The most fulfilling experience I've had in a leadership role is definitely being one of the program co-directors at SOAR! Being in community is something that is very important to me and I am so grateful to have that at SOAR. This has pushed me to create a space for students of different backgrounds to come in and use many resources we offer that are aimed at diminishing the burdens students may face throughout their time at UCI. Seeing folks come in for our free breakfast program and engaging with them in community has become one of my favorite things to do at SOAR. Having these conversations with many students has helped me understand what they need and how I can help implement their needs in our programs.

What accomplishment are you most proud of?

The accomplishment I am most proud of is a community discussion I was invited to by the Urban Studies Student Association regarding the LA City Council audio leaks in October of 2022. Being Oaxacan and raised in LA, the anti-indigenous remarks discussed in the audio hurt a lot of the community members but also became a moment to show out that we will continue to take up space no matter where we are! Thus, being in this educational space held by USSA as an opportunity to discuss the anti-indigenous sentiments within the Latinx community is a very important moment to me during my time at UCI.

Who is your role model? How have they impacted you?

My role model at UCI is Pauline Roygoza. Paulina is an amazing person who has helped me grow not only in my professional life but also on a personal level! Seeing her advocate for students has had a huge impact on me and her support for student initiated and student led programs not only has positively impacted me but many students at UCI. If there's any down pro-staff member at UCI, it's Paulina!



Everyone experiences some form of failure in their life, how have you dealt with it?

With many obstacles and failures I've encountered throughout my life, my family and friends have helped me surpass these tough times. I am thankful to have so much love and support from those around me who keep me grounded when I might start to doubt myself or become overwhelmed. I've learned that if something doesn't go well for you, maybe it just wasn't meant to be and sure enough you will receive more opportunities in the future.

What advice would you give to your first year self?

The advice I would give to my first year self would be to not be so scared to take up space because a lot of greatness can come from it! As a first-generation student who had a very difficult educational journey, I was scared to enter certain spaces in higher education because I felt inexperienced and unseen. Throughout my time at UCI, I've overcome this feeling and have been able to explore new opportunities and meet so many amazing people.

