

# Meet Our Graduates!

## Spring 2009



**Kristen Rodriguez-Powell**

Associate of Arts in Teaching Degree, K-12 Special Education Major

*“Find a counselor or teacher who can give you advice, support and knowledge in order to succeed”*

Graduating not only gives me a stepping stone in life, but through the LULAC Parent/Child Scholarship, it ensures my son’s first two-years of tuition at one of the Alamo Colleges. My family and SAC’s Women Center have provided me with infinite support and encouragement in successfully completing my degree. I would not have enrolled in college had the Women Center not outreached specifically for women and nontraditional student populations. I definitely would not have had the means to attend college had it not been for their scholarship opportunity. I now plan to attend Texas A&M, San Antonio System Center toward my Bachelor degree in Special Education. I would advise other students to find a counselor, teacher, or organization who can give you advice, support and information in order to succeed. The Women’s Center was where I found it.



**Bronnacia Guidry**

Associate of Arts Degree, Liberal Arts

*“Live your dream, live your life”*

Graduating from San Antonio College (SAC) has given me the confidence to believe in myself no matter what happens. My time at SAC has provided me with so many interests and opportunities that it makes it difficult to leave. SAC’s Women Center helped me the most in becoming a successful student. There were times when I felt like quitting and giving up hope, but Women Center faculty and staff helped me believe that I can succeed. I plan to transfer to a university to pursue a bachelor is degree and maybe even a master’s degree.



**Chrystal Hernandez**

Associate of Arts in Teaching Degree,  
Middle School Education, Mathematics

*"Stay the course"*

My time at SAC provided me a way to stay on track toward achieving my Associate's degree. I received much needed support from the Women Center's LULAC Parent/Child Scholarship Program and other services on campus. I followed a degree plan, worked hard, and now plan to transfer to a university. I would have taken much longer in achieving my degree had I not taken advantage of the support services on campus. Just imagine, this fall I will be starting classes at Texas A&M San Antonio. I am so excited!



**Maria Christina Hernandez**

Associate of Applied Science Degree, Nursing

*"Don't ever be afraid to ask for help"*

Graduating SAC with my associate degree is finally the end of a long-time dream. I am 50 years old and am excited for the opportunity to use my knowledge and gain work experience in a hospital setting. I utilized a lot of resources to help me accomplish my dream, especially my family, God, nursing instructors, and the counselors and staff at Seguire Adelante and the Women's Center. They gave me encouragement, guidance, and inspiration to never give up.



**Mayra Guerra**

Associate of Arts in Teaching Degree,  
K-12 Special Education

*“Education really makes the world go round”*

Graduating from SAC marks another mile-stone accomplishment in my life. My mother and husband always encouraged and supported me to stay in school, even through the ups and downs. I learned not to slack off and how to manage a full-time course load. I also learned to take advantage of summer courses. I am now in my second semester at Texas A&M University.



**Liliana A. Olvera**

Associate of Arts Degree, Liberal Arts

*“If you want to soar like an eagle, surround  
yourself with eagles”*

Graduating feels like a dream. I still can't imagine myself on-stage draped in royal blue. Though most of my feelings about graduation are that of excitement, pride, and joy, I feel sad because I will miss my advisors and teachers. Along with other SAC support services, the Women Center faculty and staff and continued to encourage me to keep going. I always say, at times we must sacrifice who we are for what we could become. My future plans are to transfer to UTSA.



**Matt Pokorney**

Associate of Science Degree, Clinical Laboratory Science

*“Being successful in college is not magic, but comes from hard work and the sacrifice of social time”*

I feel a great sense of accomplishment and satisfaction for graduating from SAC with such a high-quality education at a reasonable price. I know this endeavor was made possible by the continuous support from SAC’s Women Center. Their LULAC Parent/Child Scholarship Program for first-time parents helped me accomplish my goals. My next goal is to transfer to the UT Health Science Center.



**Esther S. Rios**

Associate of Arts in Teaching Degree, Elementary Education

*“Go to your counselor before making any decision”*

The road to graduation for an associate’s degree was not easy. However, all the hardships I went through motivated me to become a better student. My time at SAC has provided me the opportunity to build the self-confidence and the self-determination I needed to accomplish any objective I propose to myself. I am very thankful to my parents for inculcating into me the importance of education. They were the first ones that gave me the opportunity to aspire to become a professional. I am very thankful with the Women’s Center for receiving the Young Women’s/ Young Men’s Conference Scholarship and Women Investing in New Successes (WINS) Scholarship. Those scholarships released me from the financial worries I had in going to college. My advice to students is to seek out their counselors before making any decisions about their academic concerns. The counselors at the Women’s Center are very understanding and have many scholarship opportunities. So whatever you do, go to their offices and seek their support. My next goal is to attend UTSA for my Bachelor of Arts degree in Interdisciplinary Studies and work as a teacher in the same community I grew up in.



**Bedia Romero**  
Associate of Applied Science Degree, Nursing  
*"Follow your dreams"*

I feel very proud of myself for finally accomplishing my nursing degree at SAC. I heard people say, "you can't because you are a woman," "you're too old," or "it's too late." That's just not true. I won't say it will be an easy road, but know that the rewards will be plentiful. I am now preparing for the nurse licensing exam, and I plan to find work at a hospital to become a productive member of society.



**Melissa Sanchez**  
Associate of Arts Degree, Liberal Arts  
*"Listen to the voice inside that dream"*

Graduating from SAC gives me a feeling of completion and hope for the future. I thought that because I was a single parent with no money that there would be no way I could get a degree. Everyone in the Women Center was always so positive and convincing. They encouraged me and gave me hope. My parents, the Women's Center LULAC Parent/Child Scholarship Program, and my daughter were thriving forces behind my determination to successfully complete my associate's degree. My next plans are to pursue my bachelor's degree at Texas A&M Kingsville System Center.