

Story 1



Carla Cabrera, 5th student from the left in black shirt, organizing banners for teams participating in AltaMed's 5k Fundraiser

Carla enrolled in the Escalera program in late February. At the time of enrollment she wanted to enroll into GED courses before the birth of her daughter that was due to be born in July. She had goals of starting vocational training in October. In July she was contacted to see if she would be interested in being part of Summer

Youth Employment knowing that obtaining some sort of employment and building her professional experiences

was also one of her goals. She was placed at AltaMed Health Services' Corporate office working with the

Strategy and Development department. One of her challenges faced in the beginning stages of employment is that she had recently given birth to her daughter. She not only had to acclimate to her new role as a mother but also her first position in a professional setting in which she would be working alongside prominent leaders within the community and organization. Although Carla was facing many environmental changes she adapted very well to all projects presented to her with the support and mentorship of both the Escalera program as well as employees supervising at her assigned work site. The professional training provided to Carla before the start of her employment allowed her to have a better understanding of the expectations of a corporate setting. Over the course of August Carla has shown tremendous leadership and professional growth she has been exposed to the backstage preparation of programs that take place within the corporation to raise awareness and increase health outcomes with the communities we serve. She was one of the three students in charge of leading the creation of logos for over 40 teams participating in the AltaMed 5k. Carla worked well with other Escalera students in delegating tasks to be completed before the day of the event. Since her completion of the Summer Youth Employment Program Carla has continued to work with AltaMed's Development team as an intern as requested by her site supervisor for her great work. She is currently one of three students undergoing training for Raisers Edge, a nonprofit management fundraising software. This experience has positively influenced Carla's post-secondary career interests. Her exposure has allowed her to entertain the idea of attending a 4-year university instead of merely vocational training. Carla has a newfound investment and appreciation for AltaMed Health Services, Escalera program, and now development. There is no doubt that this is the beginning of many new endeavors Carla will be exploring and conquering.

Story 2

Karen Cosme is one of the younger and recently enrolled SYEP students placed in a business setting. She was attending high school and had recently delivered her baby just a few weeks before her placement for summer youth employment. In addition to her age and lack of work experience Karen faced a big transportation barrier. Her sole method of getting around was public transportation and the occasional rides from her mom when her work schedule permitted. Juggling the transportation schedule, school work, and coordination of babysitters for her baby were all under Karen's daily task list of challenges for a young teen. Since this tends to be common issues faced daily for parenting youth great emphasis is placed on the importance of planning ahead during our pre-employment professional development workshops we provide. Students are taught the importance and value of preparing beforehand, prioritizing what tasks should be completed first, and how to respond professionally should something go wrong with their plans. Karen has proven to be such a reliable and responsible employee that she has been offered a permanent position by her host site. Karen has stated that she has learned to appreciate the value of planning and hard earned money. It has been a great motivator for her to continue her education so that she can move up to higher positions.