

Statement of Reflection One Year into the Pandemic

May 2021

The Academic Preparation Programs (APP) at the University of California, Riverside (UCR) is a collective of student outreach and community engagement programs. These programs include the Early Academic Outreach Program, Educational Talent Search, Upward Bound Classic, Upward Bound Oasis, Upward Bound Rialto-Colton Joint (RCJ), TRIO Scholars, and the University Eastside Community Collaborative (UECC) AmeriCorps.

In passing the one-year mark since transitioning into a remote environment due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have experienced various challenging moments in our society. Throughout the last year, these challenges exposed pre-existing and growing inequities in society. Our work and efforts to combat these inequities are reaffirmed and grounded in our core values, some of which are highlighted below:

- We commit to positively impacting the success of our communities and students by contributing to the eradication of systematic disparities.
- We commit to developing and providing quality services which have a positive effect on our students and communities.
- We demonstrate the highest degree of respect, concern, sensitivity, and understanding for individuals.
- We embrace our rich diversity of perspectives, values, skills, beliefs, backgrounds and cultures in order to build a welcoming and inclusive environment where individuals feel valued and a sense of belonging.

As we press forward, we reiterate the relevance and importance of our programs in providing necessary and crucial services to the marginalized communities we serve and renew our commitment towards making a positive impact in the community.

Yours In Service,

Frances Calvin, Director, EAOP

Álvaro Martín, Director, TRIO Pre-College

César Oyervides-Cisneros, Program Manager, UECC AmeriCorps

Alicia Velazquez, Executive Director, Educational and Community Outreach Programs