

## Selma High students graduate from Doctors Academy



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Fifteen students have graduated this year from the Doctors Academy at Selma High School. The high-caliber program was started by the UCSF Fresno Latino Center for Medical Education and Research. The graduation ceremony was held May 15 at Selma High.

The program aims to encourage students to pursue college educations, with the intent of establishing careers in health and medicine. The Doctors Academy was established in 1999 as a pilot program at Sunnyside High School in Fresno and eventually expanded to Selma and Caruthers high

schools. The program includes hands-on experience through job shadowing with medical professionals, field trips and research projects.

According to UCSF Fresno, all the graduates this year from the three high schools will continue their educations at post-secondary institutions this fall.

“Thanks to the support, dedication and commitment from our school sites and community partners, we are able to provide students with a multitude of services and opportunities,” said Katherine A. Flores, director of the UCSF Fresno Latino Center for Medical Education and Research. “It is because of these successful partnerships that the Doctors Academy students continue to excel.”

Here are the Selma High graduates, their majors and where they will be attending school in the fall:

Alejandra Alvarez, psychology, California State University, Fresno.

Gurkiran Bains, biology, Reedley College.

Miranda Barela, nursing, California State University, Fresno.

Austin Barkley, kinesiology, Reedley College.

Meekayla Chase, biology, University of California, Merced.

Danayara Diaz, biology, California State University, Fresno.

Araceli Garcia-Munoz, sociology, University of California, Merced.

Yaritza Gomez, kinesiology, California State University, Northridge.

Erendira Hernandez, public health science, University of California, Irvine.

Juana Juarez, biology, California State University, Fresno.

Tereza Lopez, undeclared, Reedley College.

Jamie Perez, biology, California State University, Fresno.

Karina Reyes, biology, California State University, Fresno.

Sofia Santiago, nursing, California State University, Fresno.

Karen Vasquez, biology, University of California, Merced.

In addition, three of the students — Hernandez, Perez and Reyes — each received an Early Conditional Acceptance Award to the UCSF Pharmacy Program. The award grants students an interview for the UCSF School of Pharmacy, upon completion of successful undergraduate studies and admission requirements.

The valedictorians for the Selma class were Chase and Hernandez.

The Doctors Academy program is funded, in part, by the University of California San Francisco, School of Medicine; the Selma Unified School District; the Wells Fargo Bank Foundation; the Selma Health Care District; and Kaiser Permanente, Fresno.