

## EOPS

Selected Student: Gabriella Gandall

Submitted by: Paloma Arnold

Gabriella (or Gabby) embodies the true spirit of EOPS. Having worked as a Peer Mentor in EOPS and the Running Start summer bridge program, Gabby organically goes above and beyond to serve her peers with grace and compassion. She has been an active and consistent leader both within EOPS and the SBCC community as well. In addition to working as an EOPS Peer Mentor, Gabby is the president of the EOPS Club, she has participated in the Student Advisory Council with Guided Pathways, regularly attends board meetings, and has been a strong advocate representing the needs of our most marginalized student population, including our LGBTQ+ and undocumented students.

Gabby leads with her heart and naturally establishes trust and compassion while working with our most vulnerable students. She has an incredible work ethic, which combined with her motivation and empathy towards others has led her to choose Sociology as her major. Gabby will be transferring to UC Riverside in the fall.

### Gabby's Words of Gratitude:

I feel overjoyed to have received this award from the whole EOPS department. Before coming into EOPS I was very lost in what I wanted to do with my education, I had probably changed my major three times and was feeling as if I was stuck. Once I joined the EOPS program and was welcomed by every single person in there, I finally felt like I had a home at SBCC. Since being in EOPS and becoming a peer mentor, I have gained relationships and friendships with students, the staff, and my fellow peer mentors who encouraged me every single day in the office to keep going. I am so thankful that EOPS provided so many opportunities for me and helped me along my educational journey. I would like to especially thank

every single person in EOPS who gave me the strength to come to work and school every day with a smile. EOPS is like no other and my best years at SBCC were in that EOPS office. Thank you to my extended family for being there unconditionally and helping me grow, I will miss this family I have come into so much when I move, but am so grateful for them being the reason I have the courage to further my education.