

American Sign Language

Kaiden Wilde

Submitted by Ignacio Ponce

Kaiden has been and continues to be more than an outstanding student. He also shares his passion for ASL by serving as an ASL tutor, and has served as the Public Relations Coordinator with the ASL Club, where he was instrumental in the planning and implementation of different events that benefited all students. He is transferring to California State University, Northridge to major in Deaf Studies and continue his passion for ASL and Deaf Culture.

Kaiden's genuine interest in American Sign Language and the culture of Deaf and Hard of Hearing people have earned him the respect and admiration from the Deaf faculty and students in the ASL Program. We are pleased to recognize Kaiden Wilde as the 2020-2021 Outstanding Student of the Year in American Sign Language.

Kaiden's Words of Gratitude

It is such an honor to be recognized in this manner and to be receiving this award - it is not something I ever would have anticipated. I want to express my deepest gratitude to the Deaf and signing community at Santa Barbara City College for creating a learning environment that embraces and encourages students who are ready to immerse themselves and become part of a not just a class, or a program of study, but a community. All languages are reflective of, and inseparable from, the cultures to which they belong; it is the connection to Deaf community and culture through achieving my AA in American Sign Language that has been the greatest gift I could have asked for. Thank you to Kat for being a wonderful and supportive teacher. Thank you to all the folks I've met and interacted with through ASL Club and Deaf Coffee Night. Thank you to all the tutors who have supported me, and all the students I have supported as a tutor. Finally, a huge thank you to Ignacio for being the most incredible teacher and mentor I could have imagined. We are stronger together - I couldn't have done this without you all. My deepest, deepest gratitude once again.