

Computer Science

Selected Student: Monica Aguilar

Submitted by: Salmaun Masooman

Monica Aguilar has been a stellar student for our department. Aside from her academic performance in Computer Science, she has been very active outside of the classroom in many ways. She has led a lot of CS Club workshops (such as game design, and Arduino), been a substitute Lab Teaching Assistant, and been successful in several programming contests, including the "Womxn Coders" at the UCSB Hackathon.

Monica's Words of Gratitude:

When I graduated high school in 2016, I had no idea what major I was going to choose. Computer Science wasn't even an idea I had in mind. It wasn't until my second year at SBCC that I took CS 101 on a whim and discovered computer programming.

I was fascinated by the idea of using computers to solve problems. I met Nathalie Guebels, a Computer Science professor, while volunteering with the CS Department at Science Discovery Day in 2018. We shared a passion for teaching, and she soon became my mentor, helping me become the person I am today. As I took more classes, I grew closer with the community that the CS Department had.

The 2019-2020 school year became a year of "firsts" for me. I became a Substitute Lab Tech Assistant for the department, and continued to volunteer at outreach events. I taught workshops for both SHPE and the Computer Science Club, ranging from game development to hardware. I attended the Grace Hopper Celebration (GHC) conference for the first time, learning about the support system of women in the industry and securing a Software Engineering internship at Northrop Grumman for this summer. I competed in my first International Collegiate Programming Contest (ICPC), placing 2nd against other community colleges with my team. I attended

Womxn/Hacks a second time, and our team challenged ourselves with hardware by building a machine that can analyze a piece of garbage to determine if it can be recycled or not; we placed 2nd!

Throughout all of these experiences, I've met more and more fantastic people, students and professors alike. I've learned so much from them, and it is so inspiring to see how they come together to solve problems with computers. I cannot wait to see what my last year at SBCC will hold, and to continue to give back to the community that has taught me so much.