



CARE Grant 2025

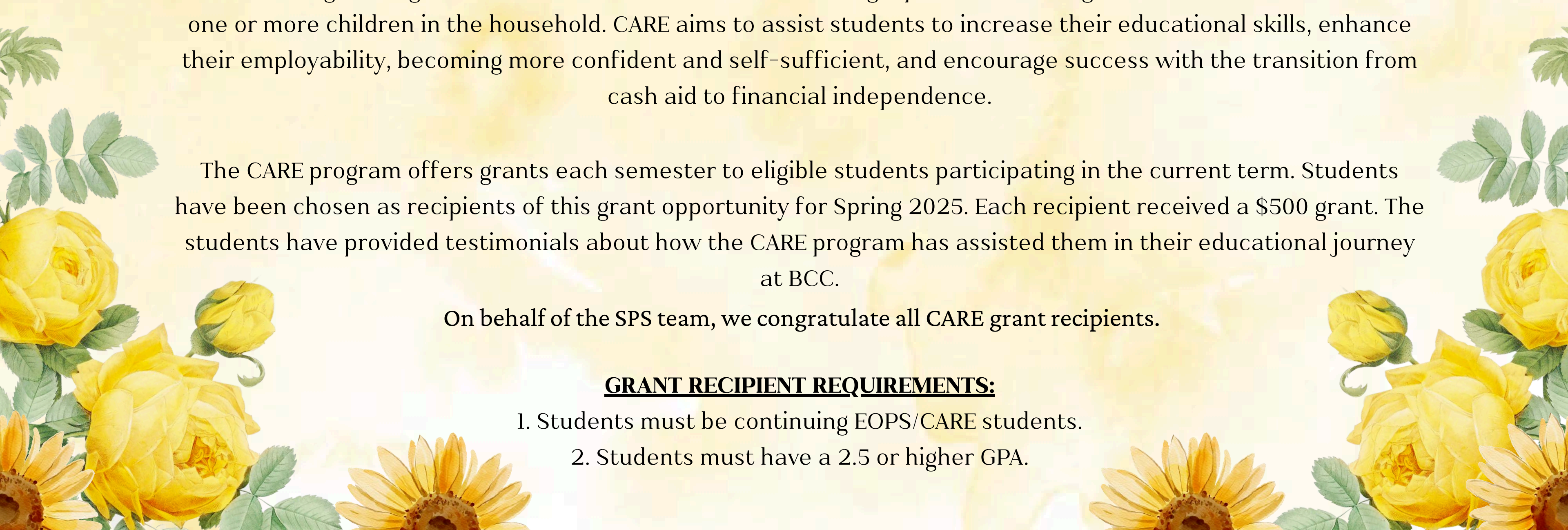
Student Recipient Testimonials

The CARE Program is geared toward EOPS students who are single parents receiving CalWORKs/cash aid and have one or more children in the household. CARE aims to assist students to increase their educational skills, enhance their employability, becoming more confident and self-sufficient, and encourage success with the transition from cash aid to financial independence.

The CARE program offers grants each semester to eligible students participating in the current term. Students have been chosen as recipients of this grant opportunity for Spring 2025. Each recipient received a \$500 grant. The students have provided testimonials about how the CARE program has assisted them in their educational journey at BCC.

On behalf of the SPS team, we congratulate all CARE grant recipients.

GRANT RECIPIENT REQUIREMENTS:

1. Students must be continuing EOPS/CARE students.
 2. Students must have a 2.5 or higher GPA.
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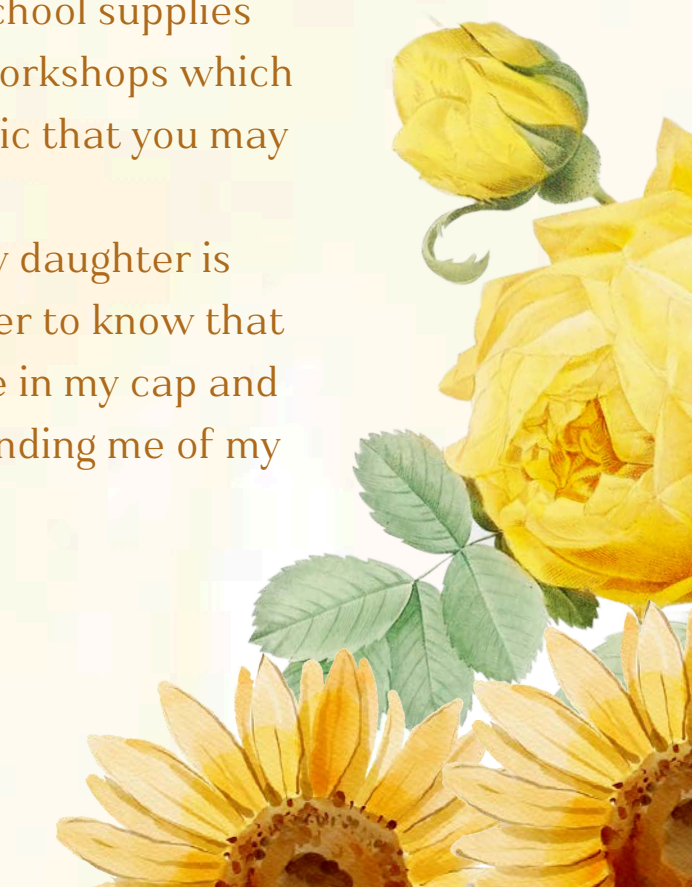
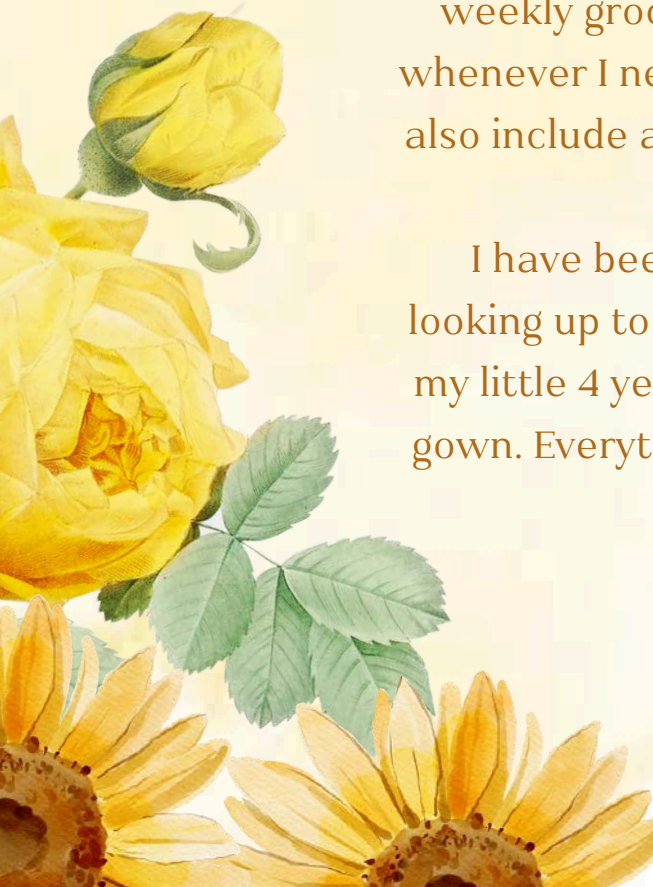


A. Artiaga

Associate of Arts/Liberal Studies

I have been a student here at Barstow Community College for about eight months now, and it has been one of the best decisions I've made, not only for myself but also for my daughter and the bright future we now have ahead of us. Before making this decision, I was struggling mentally, financially, and spiritually. I felt like I didn't know which way to go; I didn't know what I wanted to do with my life. I have a beautiful 4-year-old girl who thinks of me as a superhero, so I knew I had to make a change and make something happen. I made the jump and scheduled a meeting with a counselor, and now I am on my way to walk across that stage next May with my AA. I am now proud to say that I will be majoring in Liberal Arts and Social Sciences and plan to transfer to a bachelor's degree program. I had no idea our community college had so many resources for its students. Now that I am more knowledgeable about these programs, I will tell everyone who is thinking about coming to school about them, especially my low-income and single-parent friends. Being a single parent is far from easy. Every day, we face obstacles and struggles, but with the love and support I get from the CARE program, it has taken a lot off my shoulders, week after week. Not only do they offer weekly grocery cards when you need that extra little something to help you get dinner on the table, they also offer many other things such as school supplies whenever I need them, benefit cards which include the option of either gas or Walmart, but they also offer opportunities to attend educational workshops which also include additional benefit cards for something as simple as attending an hour zoom meeting to help better educate yourself on a specific topic that you may be struggling with both mentally or educational.

I have been so blessed and honored to be a part of the EOPS/CARE program. My future seems so much more clear and at the end of the day my daughter is looking up to me and even tells me "Mommy I want to go to the big school (college) just like you when I grow up", it makes me feel good as a mother to know that my little 4 year old girl already has college planted in her head. It's unexplainable to think that this time next year, I'll be walking across that stage in my cap and gown. Everything I do is for HER. I want to end this testimony by saying THANK YOU, Barstow Community College, and the CARE program, for reminding me of my abilities to strive and always letting me know that you are here for not only me but my little family.



A. Mack

Certificate of Achievement/Administration of Justice

During my time at Barstow Community College, as a student navigating the complexities of college life, I faced numerous challenges. The CARE Program has been an invaluable resource that has significantly impacted my academic journey and personal growth. The CARE Program served as a beacon of support, offering a wide range of services that helped me overcome these obstacles. I found myself facing numerous challenges, both academically and personally.

From the very beginning, the CARE Program provided me with a welcoming environment that fostered a sense of community among students. This program is dedicated to supporting students facing financial hardships and offers a variety of essential resources for success. Whether it was through financial assistance, academic advising, or emotional support, the CARE Program was always there to lend a helping hand.

One of the most significant aspects of the CARE Program is its emphasis on personalized support. I remember my first meeting with a CARE advisor, who took the time to understand my situation and aspirations. This one-on-one interaction made me feel valued and motivated. The advisor helped me create an academic plan tailored to my goals, ensuring that I was on the right track to achieve my degree. This personalized approach not only alleviated my stress but also instilled confidence in my abilities.


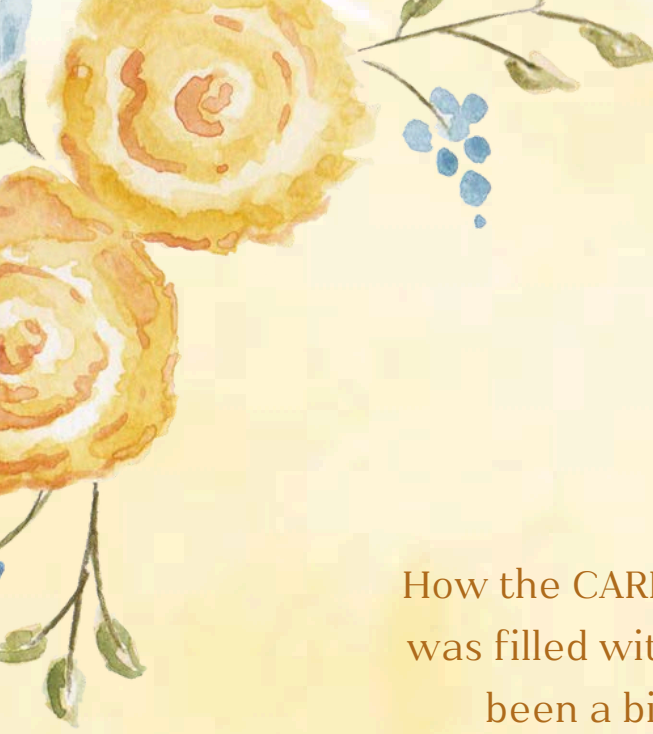
The financial and personal assistance provided by the CARE Program was a game-changer for me. As a student juggling work and studies, unexpected expenses often felt overwhelming. The program offered me access to resources that helped cover food products, activity workshops, and even transportation expenses. Even planning events with peers. This slight financial relief allowed me to focus more on my studies rather than worrying about how to make ends meet. I dedicated my time to my coursework and extracurricular activities, which ultimately enhanced my learning experience.

In addition to academic and financial support, the CARE Program also emphasized the importance of mental health and well-being. The workshops and resources available helped me develop essential coping strategies to manage stress and anxiety, which are common challenges for college students. I participated in several workshops that focused on mindfulness, time management, and self-care practices. These experiences taught me the importance of maintaining a healthy balance between my academic responsibilities and personal life.

Moreover, the CARE Program fostered a sense of belonging and connection among students. Through various events and support groups, I had the opportunity to meet fellow students who were facing similar challenges. Sharing our experiences and learning from one another created a supportive network that made my college experience much more enriching. The camaraderie built through the CARE Program encouraged me to stay engaged and motivated throughout my studies. In conclusion, the CARE Program at Barstow Community College has played a crucial role in my academic success and personal development. The support I received—from personalized academic advising to financial assistance and mental health resources—has been instrumental in helping me navigate the challenges of college life. I am grateful for the opportunities provided by the CARE Program and can confidently say that it has made a lasting impact on my journey. I wholeheartedly recommend this program to any student seeking support and guidance during their time at Barstow Community College.

REMEMBER NEVER GIVE UP! GO FOR YOUR GOALS AND SMILE AT THE END WHEN YOU MAKE IT!





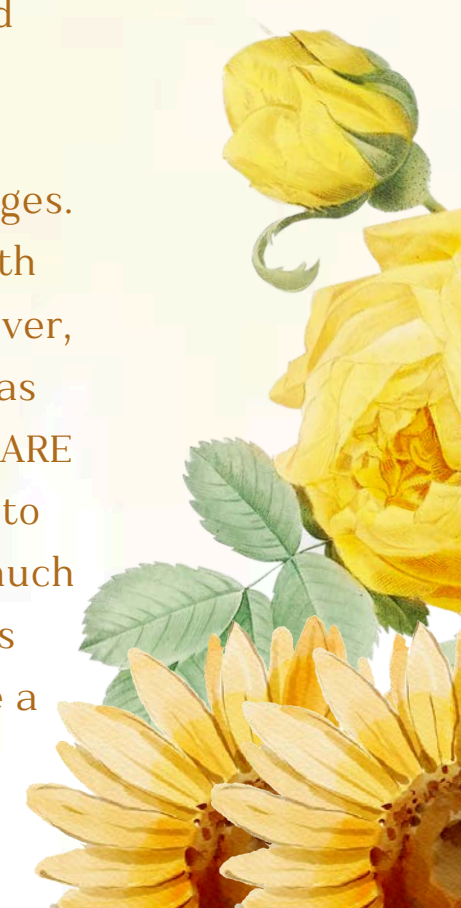
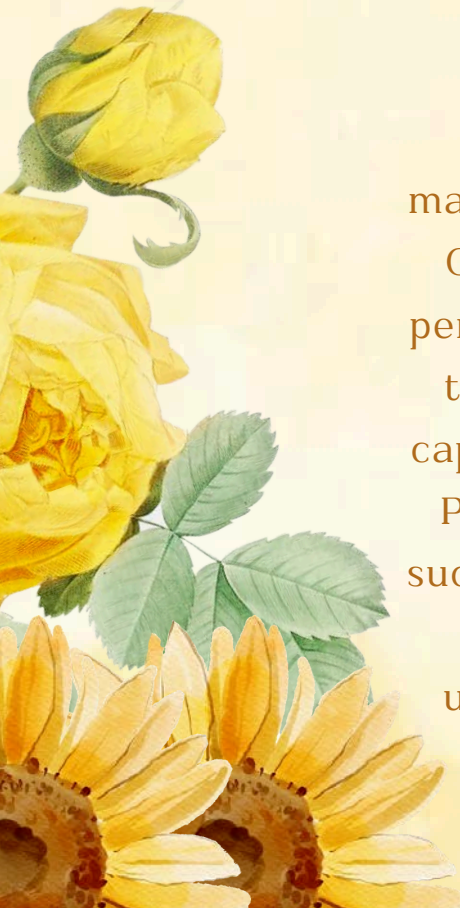
E. Jones

Associate of Arts/Liberal Studies

How the CARE Program Supported My Journey at Barstow Community College. As a second-generation college student, my journey at Barstow Community College was filled with both excitement and challenges. The transition from high school to college was different for me. I've always excelled in academics, but college has been a bit more challenging. Fortunately, the CARE Program at Barstow Community College was there to provide the assistance and guidance I needed to overcome these obstacles as a first-time mommy!

From the moment I joined the CARE Program, I felt a sense of belonging and support. The program's goal to support students, especially those facing financial difficulties, was evident in everything they did. One of the most valuable aspects of the CARE Program for me was the support I received for my daughter. I was paired with many dedicated counselors who took the time to understand my goals and challenges. They helped me plan my courses, provided advice on study techniques, and encouraged me to explore different academic pathways.

In addition to academic support, the CARE Program also provided financial assistance, which was crucial to my success. As a student balancing school, work, and family responsibilities, I often struggled to cover the costs of textbooks, supplies, and other essential expenses. Being able to receive childcare while taking classes and also getting assistance with gas, groceries, and Walmart benefit cards was a big help, because what mother doesn't need help in those aspects? The CARE Program's support and resources helped relieve some of that burden, allowing me to focus on my studies rather than worry about how I would afford everything I needed.



The workshops and peer mentorship opportunities offered through the CARE Program were also beneficial. I participated in several workshops on time management, stress management, and career readiness, which gave me the tools to stay organized and prepared for both academic and professional challenges. One of the most significant ways the CARE Program has supported me is by offering a safe and understanding environment. As a non-traditional student with personal responsibilities outside of school, I often felt out of place compared to other college students who don't have the same responsibilities as I do. However, through CARE, I was able to connect with others who shared similar experiences. The program made me feel that my circumstances were valid and that I was capable of succeeding despite any challenges I faced. As I near the completion of my studies at Barstow Community College, I am incredibly grateful for the CARE Program and everything it has provided me. Not only has it helped me navigate the academic world, but it has also given me the confidence and tools I need to succeed beyond college. I feel more prepared for my next steps, whether that be transferring to a four-year university or entering the workforce, and I owe much of that confidence to the support I received from the CARE Program. The CARE Program at Barstow Community College has been an invaluable resource. Its unwavering support, resources, and sense of community have played a significant role in my success, and I will forever be thankful for the opportunity to be a part of it.

S. Alcaraz

Associate of Science/Cosmetology

My name is Soledad Alcaraz, and I am 27 years old. I am a mother of three kids, ages 12, 9, and 5.

Attending college was never in my mind, and I never imagined being here. I was stressed. At the time I enrolled in college, I was living in Newberry Springs and feeling discouraged because I didn't know how I would make it through. I was introduced to EOPS by my counselor, and I attended the EOPS orientation. I was thrilled to find out all the help they provide for us. Eventually, I got approved, and it has truly been a blessing in our lives since then.

How EOPS CARE helped us.

I see the efforts the staff puts into the eops care program and how they go out of their way to decorate and host these meetings for us as well. Nothing is free, of course.

We have to be willing to receive these blessings, like getting benefit cards each time we complete a workshop or attend a contact meeting. To some, it may seem like much work or that they don't have time, but honestly, it's a Blessing! Seriously, what would we do without them?

This program has helped us. It has genuinely helped me a great deal, especially since they also provide gas cards for any necessities you might need. It's a profound blessing, and not everyone appreciates it. I hope they continue doing what they're doing because the EOPS program and everyone in it do care for us.

You guys have helped us a lot, and I couldn't accomplish my career without being able to do something for others, just like you guys helped us. I hope the program continues and makes a change in others, just as it did in me. Not only do they provide many resources, but they also help with clothing and breakfast. They have other programs for people in different situations as well.

I don't want to stay quiet about the help I have received from EOPS CARE. I like to tell others how huge a help you guys are and how we can learn a lot as well by attending the workshops and their events. We have to be willing to learn and apply what we know. Honestly, I am so thankful to be here at Barstow Community College.

It's beneficial here on this campus. Thank you to my family and me.



S. Gutierrez

Associate of Science/Child Development

My name is Sabrina Gutierrez, and I am currently participating in the EOPS and CARE programs at Barstow Community College. After taking a break from school for 27 years to start a family and raise my children, I made the decision to return to school in the Spring of 2024. This decision was motivated not only by personal growth but also by the desire to provide a better future for myself and my family.

When I first stepped onto the campus, I felt a mix of excitement and nervousness. It was pretty overwhelming to navigate this new world after so many years. I had no clear idea of how to start the journey back into education. The campus was full of students who all seemed to know exactly where they were going, which made me feel lost and out of place. Nevertheless, my first interaction with the EOPS staff changed everything for me.

The EOPS program is there to help students like me who experience economic and educational challenges. The staff welcomed me with open arms. As I learned more about the resources provided by EOPS, I felt a sense of relief. The staff was extremely supportive and compassionate about my circumstances. They offered me assistance with everything from financial aid information and education plans to school supplies and lists of informative workshops that I could attend. I was also provided the opportunity to enroll in the CARE program. This program is available to single parents. This was particularly important for me, as I was trying to balance my educational goals with my responsibilities at home. While attending events coordinated by EOPS, I was able to connect with other students who share some of the same situations. These connections helped me feel a sense of belonging and have helped me feel so much better about the journey I'm on.

My experience with the EOPS and CARE programs has been excellent. It isn't just about the resources they provide; it's also the encouragement, the sense of community, and the faith in

my potential that makes all the difference. I am currently thriving in my classes and enjoying this new chapter of my life. I want to encourage future students to explore the opportunities that EOPS has to offer. If you're contemplating going back to school, know that it's never too late. The EOPS program not only provides valuable resources, but it also offers a community of support. All it takes is that first step. My experience has shown me that with the proper support, dreams can be fulfilled at any stage of life.



A. Avila

Associate of Science/Cosmetology

My name is Alejandra, and I am a single mother of three children under the age of seven. I chose Barstow Community College because of its cosmetology program. This is something I've wanted to pursue for years, but I was worried that I didn't have the proper support system.

When I was exploring my options, I found that most schools would leave me at least \$10,000 in debt after graduation. Barstow Community College, however, offered financial aid for the cosmetology program. After applying for financial assistance, I received a notification that I was also eligible for a program called EOPS. A counselor from EOPS reached out to explain what the program is and how it could support me in my college journey.

I also learned that since I'm attending a community college, I can earn an associate degree in the science of cosmetology. EOPS provides book vouchers every semester, which can also be used to purchase cosmetology kits from the bookstore. This has saved me a significant amount of money on materials, as this program can be pretty expensive.

EOPS also informed me that I qualify for the CARE Program, which is designed for single parents receiving cash aid for themselves and their children. I knew I wouldn't be able to maintain a job, attend school full-time, and raise three children on my own, so I applied for county assistance to help me along the way.

The CARE Program offers many great incentives. We receive weekly grocery cards, which can also be used for gas. What I love most about the grocery cards is that they aren't limited to food—you can use them to buy anything in the store. Sometimes I'm running low on diapers, wipes, toilet paper, and other essentials, and these cards come in handy.

Some workshops help us understand financial aid, manage our mental health, and much more. After completing these workshops, we receive two benefit cards—either for groceries, gas, or Walmart. I often choose the Walmart cards because they allow me to purchase diapers, clothing, and shoes for my children.

I have access to counselors who reach out to me regularly and are available to meet whenever I need. This support is essential for staying on track with my education plan and for dealing with any challenges I face while attending college.

The program also provides us with T-shirts, sweaters, and other clothing items. As a single parent, my kids always come first, and I don't often have the means to buy things for myself. I appreciate receiving program attire—it's a small gesture that makes a big difference.

EOPS and the CARE Program have made my journey at Barstow Community College so much easier than I ever imagined. Honestly, I don't know what I would've done without this support. It has helped me with everything from groceries to gas to basic necessities.

The staff is always friendly, informative, and genuinely goes the extra mile. I'm incredibly grateful to be part of this program and for all the opportunities it has provided—not just for me, but also for my children.

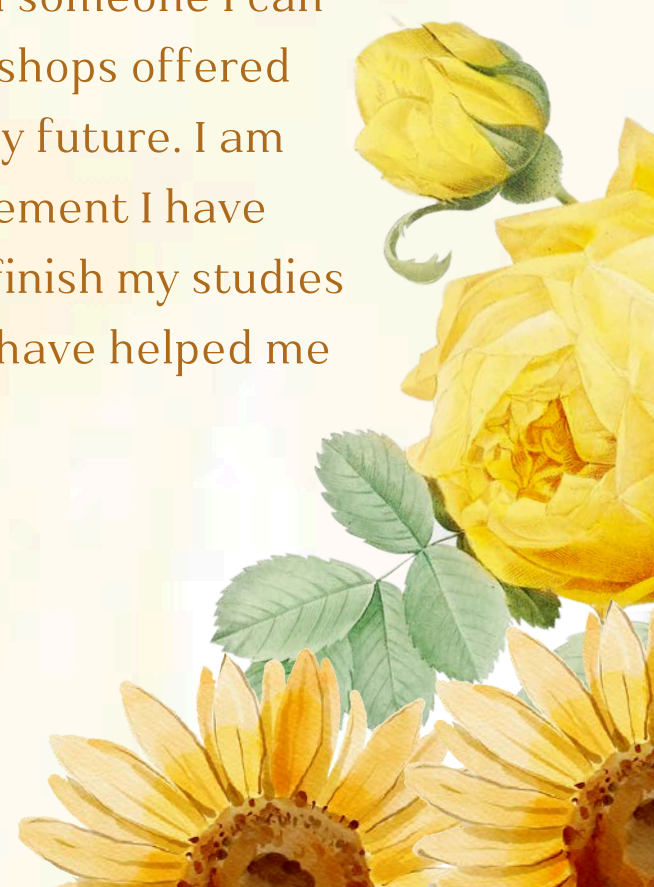





A. Barajas

Associate of Science/Pre-Allied Health Sciences

I cannot express enough how much the EOPS/Care program has supported me during my time at Barstow Community College. As a single mother balancing my studies while also caring for my disabled mother, I have faced numerous challenges. This program has been a proper lifeline for me. From providing transportation cards that helped ease the burden of gas expenses to offering Walmart gift cards for essential school supplies and items for my children, the support I have received has been invaluable. Additionally, the food banks associated with the program have been a tremendous help, ensuring that my family and I never had to worry about our next meal. Their assistance has provided a crucial significance during tough times. The EOPS/Care team also helped me manage my bills, which can be so overwhelming. They connected me with a counselor who continues to be a great support system for me. This counselor has not only helped me navigate financial situations but has also been someone I can talk to about any struggles I face. The personalized attention and care I received made a significant difference in my life. The workshops offered through the program have educated me on how to stay on the right track, providing me with tools and strategies to set goals for my future. I am thrilled to share that I will be graduating this semester! I attribute a significant part of my success to the resources and encouragement I have received through this program. I am so grateful for all the support and opportunities that EOPS/Care has provided me. I can't wait to finish my studies and pursue my dream of becoming a nurse so that I can give back to my community one day. I will forever be thankful for those who have helped me on this journey!





A. Chamberlain

Associates of Arts/Liberal Studies

The care program was instrumental in my success at Barstow Community College. It provided essential support during challenging times, ensuring I never had to face difficulties alone. The weekly grocery cards were a tremendous help, allowing me to secure extra food when needed, and the Food Pantry was an invaluable resource. Additionally, the workshops offered practical aid, with gift cards that eased the burden when I was low on gas or needed other necessities.

Thanks to this program, I stayed focused on my goal of graduating, and I even received assistance with my cap and gown. I truly couldn't have made it without their unwavering support. I greatly valued the tutoring support offered when I needed it. Whenever I faced challenges with gas money to get to school, I took advantage of the workshops and received a gas card. This assistance reinforced my belief in the program's commitment to my success and empowered me to overcome obstacles on my educational journey. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the fantastic staff in the SPS office, especially Ms. Grace. She has been incredibly helpful to all of us students with her weekly emails, keeping us informed and supported. The program also provided vital assistance with the technology issues I faced, which made a significant difference in my academic journey. I'm set to graduate this May, and the free cap and gown provided by the program is a significant help, especially since they can be pretty expensive. Additionally, the program supported me in acquiring my textbooks and essential kit, which I wouldn't have been able to afford otherwise. Their assistance has been crucial in making my graduation possible. I am genuinely thankful for the extensive support I've received from the CARES program throughout my academic journey. The resources and assistance provided have been invaluable in helping me navigate various challenges. I plan to return in the fall to complete my associate degree, and I am excited to take advantage of the opportunities and resources the program offers to help me succeed in my studies and future career.





A. Hines

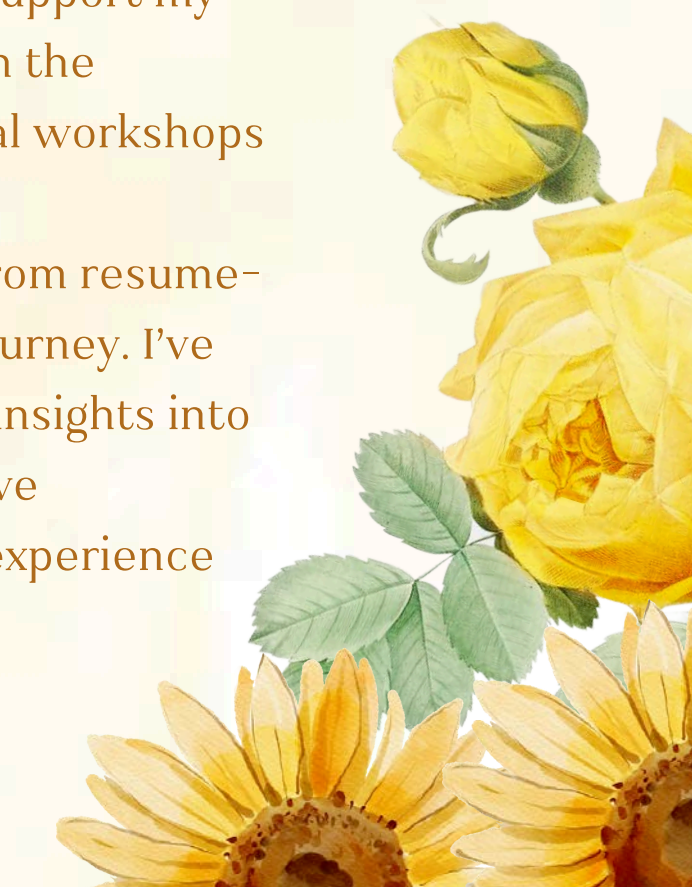

Associate of Science/Pre-Allied Health Sciences



As a first-generation college student, my journey through Barstow Community College was filled with excitement but also a fair share of uncertainty. It was during this time that I discovered the CARE Program, which fundamentally transformed my experience and helped me realize my academic and personal potential. From the moment I enrolled, the CARE Program offered me a supportive environment tailored specifically to students like me. At our first meeting, I was introduced to the CARE staff, who greeted me with warmth and understanding. They listened attentively to my concerns and aspirations, making me feel valued and understood right away. Their commitment to supporting students was clear and made a big difference at a time when I needed it.

One of the most notable aspects of the CARE Program is its approach to supporting students. Beyond academic advising and workshop services, the program offered mentorship through counseling, which was helpful.

The financial assistance offered through the CARE Program was also a lifesaver. As someone who was working part-time to support my education, every bit of financial relief helped me balance my responsibilities. The grants and gas cards available through the program not only eased my financial hardships but also allowed me to invest more time into my studies. I could attend additional workshops and academic events without the constant stress of financial strain over me.

Throughout my time at Barstow Community College, the opportunities provided by the CARE Program have been outstanding. From resume-building workshops to networking events, the program has provided many experiences that have helped with my academic journey. I've been able to connect with peers and professionals in my field, which has not only expanded my network but has also given me insights into potential career paths. The practical skills I learned through these workshops have already started to pay off, as I have more insight into what is needed for my transfer to a 2-year college. Being a part of the CARE program has made my college experience unforgettable.







A. Jones

Associate of Science/Cosmetology

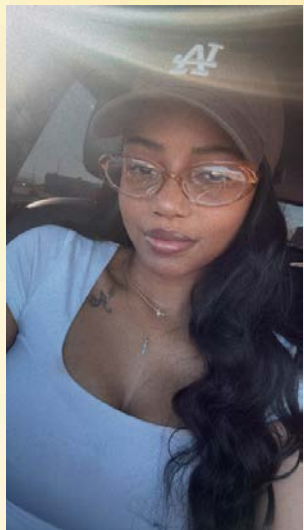
The EOPS/CARES program has supported me in many ways. First, it has opened doors for me to meet different people who inspired me to step out there and join the various clubs at Barstow Community College. The EOPS/CARE program has also helped me stick to my educational plan by offering me three counseling sessions. That right there has helped me in many ways because it didn't mislead me, and talking to the counselors motivated me just through their conversation and encouragement. As a single parent, it has also helped me by providing incentives through workshops that have helped me improve my educational skills and become more self-sufficient and confident in my education and as a person.

The EOPS/CARE program has also provided me with a weekly grocery card, school supplies, and other support that have helped me tremendously. I would have made it without any of this help, but I am very thankful that I was guided by the people working on this program. Finally, the staff working the EOPS/CARE program have been the kindest and most helpful people I have met. They have been encouraging and kind, even on days when we may not know they're bad ones, but they continue to put a smile on their faces and show compassion. I am very thankful for this program and all the help it has provided for me and others. These programs are doing a fantastic job. It is impacting me and so many other people with all the help they provide, including academic support, assistance with school supplies, and even weekly grocery cards or incentives for the workshops. I want to thank all the staff who work the EOPS/CAREs program for all the help they are doing.



A. Lloyd

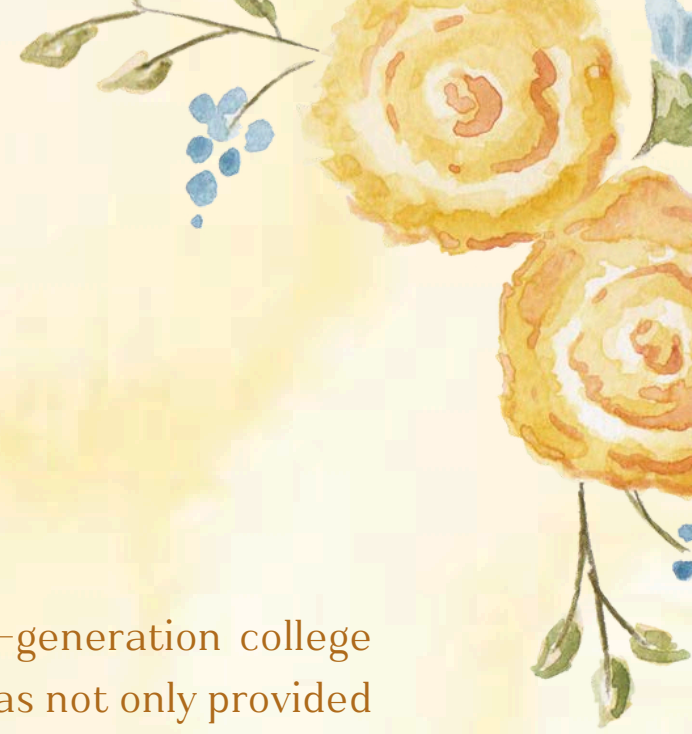

Associate of Arts Degree for Transfer / Sociology



I am honored to be a recipient of the \$500 CARE Grant for Spring 2025, and I am grateful for the support I have received from the CARE Program during my time at Barstow Community College. As a single mom of two young girls, I have faced many challenges, particularly in balancing my responsibilities as a parent with my pursuit of education. However, the CARE Program has been a beacon of hope and support, making my academic journey not only possible but also more manageable and fulfilling. When I first enrolled at Barstow Community College, I was overwhelmed by the thought of returning to school while carrying the weight of my responsibilities as a single, unemployed mother. I was concerned about how I would afford basic necessities for my children, let alone my educational expenses. Fortunately, the CARE Program stepped in during this critical time in my life. One of the most significant ways the CARE Program has impacted my life is through the weekly food cards. As a single parent, budgeting for food can be incredibly challenging. The weekly food cards have alleviated some of the financial strain, allowing me to provide nutritious meals for my children without constantly worrying about how I would make ends meet. Knowing that I had access to this program helped me focus more on my studies and less on my financial stress. In addition, the book vouchers provided by the CARE Program have been invaluable. Textbooks and school supplies can be prohibitively expensive, and without the vouchers, I would have struggled to afford the necessary materials for my courses. The assistance I received enabled me to obtain the essential resources that have enriched my learning experience, allowing me to engage more fully in my classes and achieve better academic outcomes.

Furthermore, the CARE Program has given me access to various services and resources that I have yet to explore fully. Just knowing that I have the support available to me, should my needs change or new challenges arise, brings me a sense of security and empowerment. It allows me to concentrate on my academic goals and the future I am building for my daughters. The CARE Program has not only supported me financially but has also reminded me that I am not alone in this journey. The environment fostered by Barstow Community College, through initiatives like the CARE Program, creates a community where individuals facing similar challenges can come together. It is encouraging to know that there are programs designed specifically to uplift and assist people like me. I feel welcomed and supported, and this has been instrumental in my pursuit of education and personal development.

In conclusion, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for the assistance I have received from the CARE Program. It has helped me navigate the complexities of being a single mother while pursuing my educational goals. This support has not only transformed my life but has also inspired me to strive for success, not only for myself but for my daughters, who look to me as a role model. I am determined to continue my studies and make the most of this opportunity so I can build a better future for my family. Thank you for believing in individuals like me and providing the support needed to succeed.


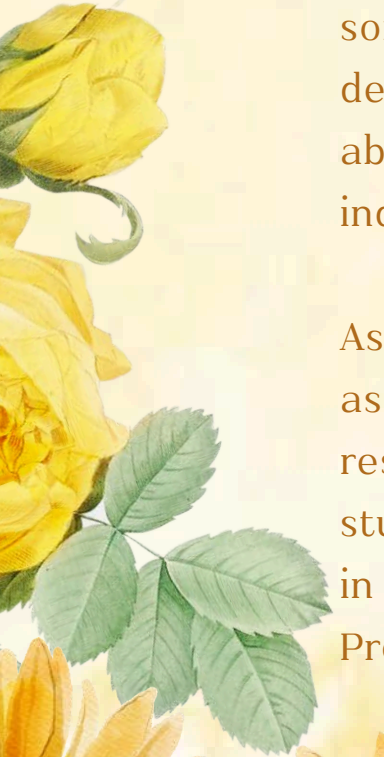


A. Turner

Associates of Science/Child Development

My journey with the CARE Program at Barstow Community College has been a transformative experience in my academic journey. I am a first-generation college student; I face numerous challenges from navigating financial constraints to balancing my studies and personal responsibilities. The CARE Program has not only provided me with essential resources but also a sense of community and belonging that has been invaluable. The moment I enrolled in the program, I felt welcomed and supported. The staff members took time to understand my needs and help me create an academic plan. They helped me with access to financial assistance, which alleviated some of the burdens of tuition and textbooks. The financial support allowed me to focus on my studies rather than worrying about how to make ends meet.

The CARE Program offered various workshops and resources that enhanced my academic skills. I participate in workshops to help me improve skills I didn't realize I needed. These sessions were not only informative, but they also helped create an environment where I could connect with other students facing similar challenges. Knowing that others needed help in the same areas helped me feel less isolated and more motivated to succeed. One of the most critical aspects of the CARE Program has been the mentorship opportunities. Encouraging and advising me helped me navigate difficult courses and personal challenges. Knowing that someone believed in my potential gave me the confidence to push through obstacles and strive for excellence. The CARE Program also emphasizes personal development, encouraging students to set goals and pursue their passions. Through the various events and activities, I was able to explore interests and develop skills that extend beyond the classroom. This approach to education has empowered me to become a more well-rounded individual.





As I reflect on my time at Barstow Community College, I am grateful for the support I have received from the CARE Program. It has not only provided me with financial assistance but also enriched my college experience in ways I never anticipated. I am proud to share my story and hope that it inspires others to take advantage of the resources available through the EOPS/CARE program. The CARE Program has been a cornerstone in my academic journey, and I wholeheartedly recommend that any student seek support and guidance. I am excited for the future and look forward to using the skills and knowledge that I have gained to make a positive impact in my community. I would like to thank you for the incredible opportunity, and I hope my testimony inspires others to pursue their educational goals through the CARE Program.





B. Robles Novoa

Associate of Arts Degree for Transfer/ Psychology



Blanca Aurora Robles Novoa, I'm a 37-year-old, first-generation American, determined to pursue a career in psychology despite facing difficult personal, and legal challenges. A single mother raising three children, grandmother of two, and a total of eight children. Since 2014, I've been trying to pursue my higher education. For over two decades, I've encountered and overcame several obstacles, embracing life lessons in a positive way that has helped shaped my purpose in life and find my career goals. Currently a student at Barstow Community College with 3.0 GPA, on a path to complete the Associate's Degree in Psychology Spring 2025, and plans to transfer to a four-year university. Despite the past challenges, I've faced parenting and academically; I've built and gained an amazing support network, through family, friends, and programs like CARE. I know for me asking for help made me think that I was vulnerable or like I just couldn't handle the responsibilities that come with being a college student, yet it's an opportunity to prioritize self-care and a chance to gain additional support like tutoring in order to complete academic assignments through each semester. Grateful for past challenges, because I've learned and gained great support from CARE, resiliency, parenting and time management skills, the courage to asked for help embracing the support; an opportunity to attend priorities and accomplish educational goals. As a student-parent it's important to balance the required time for education and the extra time for parenting. The balance I've learned to maintain has been difficult, yet valuable helping my mental well-being, experience self-love, and motivation to continue thriving throughout both roles. The CARE program has helped me and many other single parents gain training and become financially self sufficient through their supportive services. The CARE program resources offered have not only provided me with additional financial support but also some very valuable services like education advising, career counseling, transportation, food assistance, and weekly grocery cards. As a CARE participant, I've learned the importance for me to recognize my small victories and my educational accomplishments through celebrating along the way. Through the CARE program, I've been able to envision the long term goals ahead, remembering that all of my hard work will provide great opportunities not just for myself, but also for my children's future. Thank you, again to the CARE resources and Barstow Community College Student Program Services for all of their support throughout my college journey.

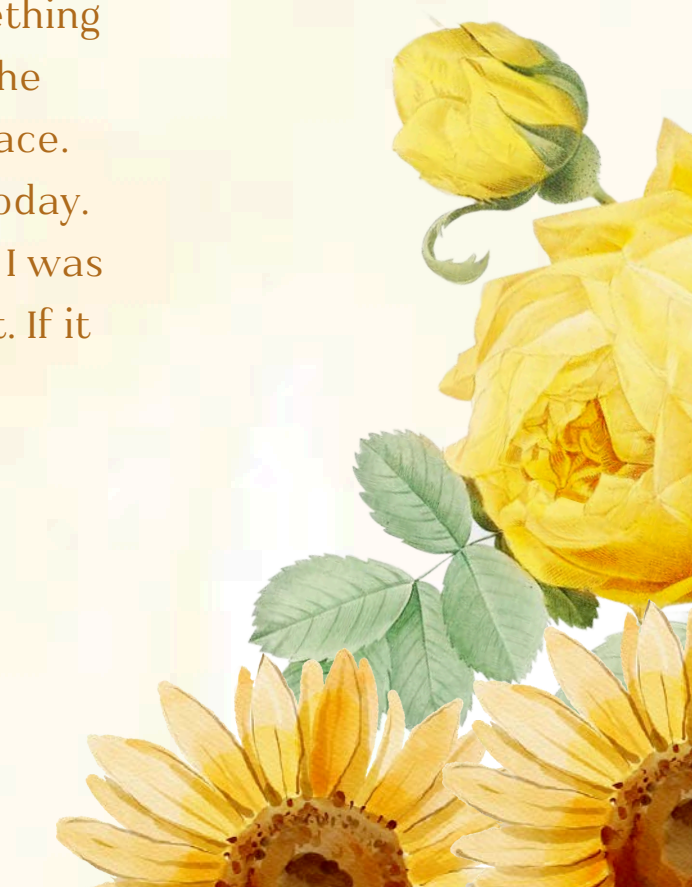



C. Earnes

Associates of Arts/Liberal Studies

E.O.P.S. and how they supported me throughout my journey at BCC. For one, you won't find nicer staff anywhere. They're there to help you. If you have a question, ask them. They allow you in any way they can. They also let you earn gift cards with workshops. Or what's needed. Like with counseling or a staff meeting. They also help with books for your classes, especially if the bookstore doesn't have them.

I would know because I had to get a book from them once or twice. Once a week, I was also allowed to go in and get a weekly food card. Trust me when I say, they come in handy. Especially when you have growing children, they also let me get food from the food pantry. How my children ate, I felt grateful. They also help with basic needs, such as clothing and bus passes. They even invite you and your family out for the holidays. They make you feel a part of the BCC family. There was even a time when I was facing homelessness. With my children, something told me to go and talk to the staff. I truly loved how they don't look down on you. They even sat down with me. They told me about the homeless program. Where did they help you get a place? Of course, you would have to do the legwork by going out and finding the place. That helps with the first and last month's deposits. If I didn't have this support with E.O.P.S./Care. I don't think I would be where I am today. Like having a roof over my children's and my head. Where is my children's homework or my assignments? To be able to earn gift cards. I was able to get new shoes or school supplies. For my children, with gift cards. Or even put more food in my house so that I wouldn't run out. If it weren't for this program, I wouldn't have finished school on time. So, I just wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you.





C. Phillips



Certificate of Achievement/Cosmetology

Hello! My name is Caprice Phillips, and I am a single mom on an exciting journey to earn my cosmetology certificate, with graduation just a few months away. Balancing the responsibilities of being a parent while pursuing my education has been a rewarding yet challenging experience. Fortunately, I have found an incredible support system in the CARE program, which has made a significant impact on my life.

When I first discovered that I wasn't eligible for financial aid, I was overwhelmed by a mixture of anxiety and uncertainty. The thought of covering the costs of my education, especially with the added expenses of raising a child, was daunting. Just when I felt the weight of this burden, the CARE program stepped in to help me navigate this difficult time.

The CARE program's generosity has been a game-changer for me. They have provided not only the essential cosmetology kits but also the textbooks that I need for my coursework. This support has lifted much pressure off my shoulders and allowed me to concentrate wholeheartedly on my classes and skill development. Instead of worrying about whether I could afford my next set of tools or materials, I can now fully immerse myself in my passion for cosmetology.

I cannot express enough how grateful I am for the incredible commitment that CARE has shown toward helping single mothers like me achieve our dreams. Their belief in us and dedication to providing essential resources truly make a difference. It's reassuring to know that there are programs out there that genuinely care about our success. This support means more to us than words can express, and it empowers us to pursue a brighter future for ourselves and our children. I can't even begin to express how grateful I am for their commitment to supporting single moms like me. Their kindness and understanding truly make a world of difference as we work hard to achieve our goals. It means so much to us, and I just wanted to share how wonderful they are!



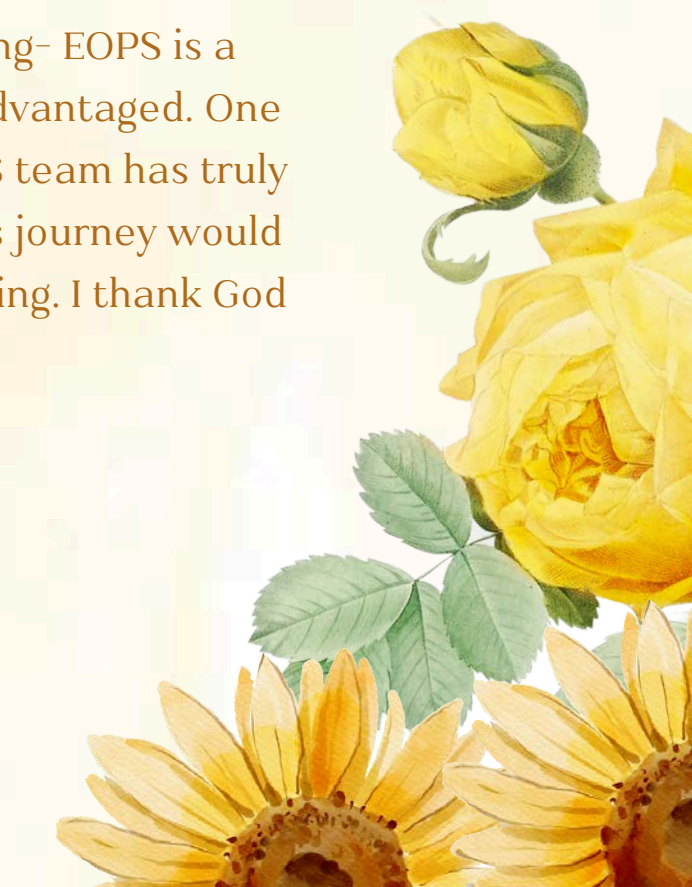
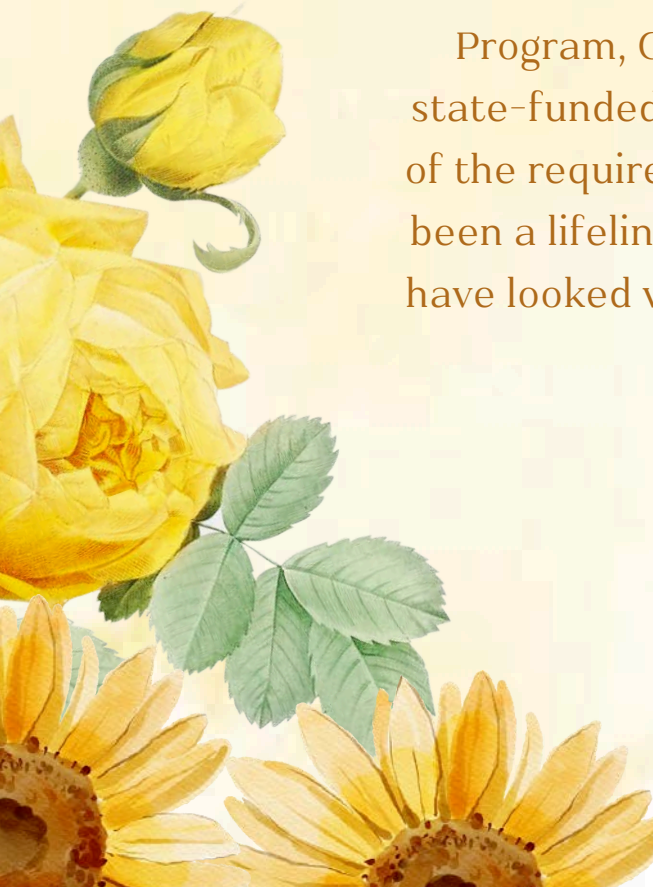


C. Rosales

Associate of Arts Degree for Transfer / Psychology

Hello, my name is Cathy Rosales. I'm 42 years old and live in Barstow, California. I've been attending Barstow Community College since June 2023, where I'm majoring in psychology. I'll be graduating with my associate degree in May 2025. Who would have thought someone like me would go to college, let alone be this close to graduating? This journey has been far from easy. After an injury at work, my health took a hit, forcing me to slow down and reevaluate everything. It was a tough period, both physically and emotionally, but I kept moving forward, one step at a time. Balancing school, work, my children, my home, and my grandbabies has been overwhelming at times. There were moments I felt like giving up, but I'm so thankful for the people in my life who reminded me of my strength and encouraged me to keep going.

Since enrolling at Barstow Community College, I've had the opportunity to participate in several amazing programs, including HHIP, ACCESS, the Promise Program, CARE, and especially EOPS (Extended Opportunity Programs and Services). But out of all these programs, EOPS has been a true blessing- EOPS is a state-funded program that offers academic support, financial help, and encouragement to students who are low-income and educationally disadvantaged. One of the requirements is full-time enrollment with at least 12 units, and staying committed to that has been a massive part of my success. The EOPS team has truly been a lifeline. I'm deeply grateful for their support and belief in me, which helped carry me through some of my hardest days. Without them, this journey would have looked very different. It hasn't been easy, but I'm proud of how far I've come. I'm still growing, still learning, and most importantly, still standing. I thank God for the strength to keep going and for the fantastic people who have walked this path with me.



C. Thomas

Associate of Science/Pre-Allied Health Sciences

My name is Chardanae Thomas. I am 26 years old and have been attending Barstow Community College. College since Spring 2024. I am majoring in Science, working toward a degree in Pre-Allied Health, with aspirations of becoming a psychiatric registered nurse. My passion for psychology and the medical field has always been strong. Throughout my journey, I have been inspired by others, including mentors, healthcare professionals, and individuals who have shared their experiences with me. Seeing the impact that compassionate care and mental health support can have on a person's life has only deepened my desire to enter this field.

I have always had a passion for helping others, and my confidence in academics has driven me to push forward, even when challenges arise. One of the best parts of my college experience has been being part of the EOPS/CARE program. The reassurance that there is always someone available to help, guide, or point me in the right direction has been crucial. Navigating college can be overwhelming, but having access to a program that genuinely cares about student success makes all the difference. Since starting at Barstow, my experience has been nothing but positive. The level of support and encouragement I've received has helped shape my college journey in ways I never expected. EOPS is more than just a program; it's a lifeline for students who need guidance, resources, and a community that uplifts them. Whether you're feeling lost, need academic support, or want to connect with people who want to see you succeed, EOPS is a one-stop shop. I truly appreciate everything the program has done for me, and I strongly encourage anyone who qualifies to take full advantage of the opportunities it offers. With the right support system, success is not just possible, it's sure to happen.



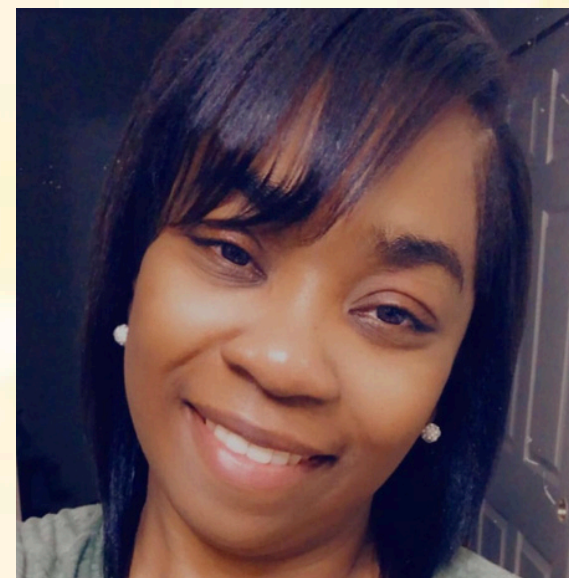
I. Rippy



Associate of Arts Degree for Transfer / Psychology

I'm a returning student. As of Fall 2023, I changed my major from an AA in Social Science to an AA in Psychology. Obtaining a degree in psychology is both a personal and career goal, and it will be a significant accomplishment for me. My career background is in Healthcare. I was in administration, and now I am pursuing a career in mental health. After this semester, I have only one more semester and two courses to complete before I graduate. Although I'm very excited to be nearing the end of my degree program, it has been a challenging journey. I faced so many obstacles, adversities, and challenges along the way.

I relocated from the East Coast with my two young sons, where my family and friends live. My job didn't have a sister medical facility in Southern California for me to transfer to, so I was without employment. Aside from Cash Aid and CalFresh, I had no other resources. This led me to face many hardships, but once I was approved for the EOPS/CARE programs, I started receiving and still receive incentives and resources such as benefit cards for food, basic needs and transportation, helpful, motivational and very informative workshops and what made me more trusting and comfortable was/is the staff. The staff has always been very welcoming, reassuring, professional, patient, understanding, and provides top-tier guidance and assistance.

The CARE program has made the road much smoother while pursuing higher education as a single mom here at BCC. I am deeply grateful for the unwavering support from the CARE program staff, who have made this journey more manageable and rewarding. The obstacles I faced, from relocating with my young sons to navigating financial hardships, have only strengthened my resolve to succeed. As I look forward to graduating and pursuing a career in mental health, I am filled with hope and determination to make a positive impact in my field.





K. Jones

Associate of Science/Business

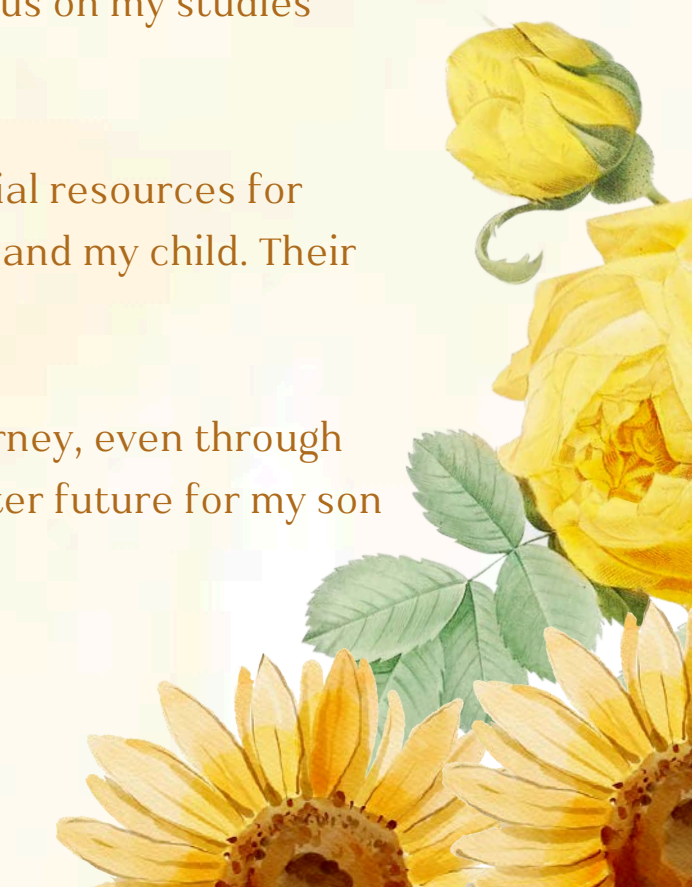
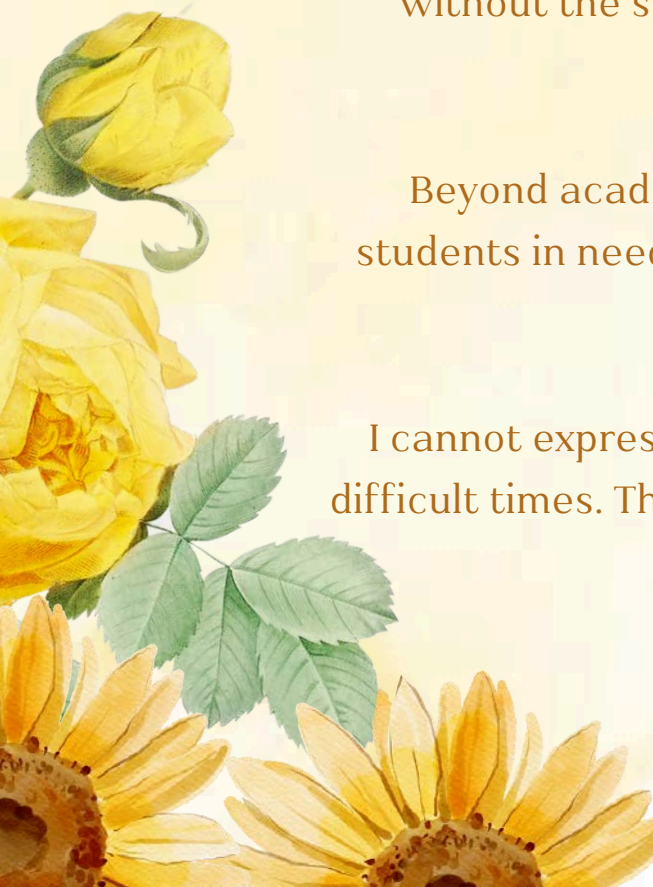
I am incredibly grateful for the support I have received from the CARE Program at Barstow Community College. As an African American student and a single parent, I have faced many challenges while pursuing my education. Still, the CARE Program has been there every step of the way, providing the resources and encouragement I needed to keep going.



One of the most significant ways the CARE Program has helped me is by providing financial and emotional support to fight for my parental rights in court. Going through the legal process was one of the hardest things I've ever had to do, and even though I ultimately lost the case, I never felt alone. The CARE Program gave me access to resources that allowed me to stand up for myself and my child. They reminded me that my education was still within reach, no matter the outcome.

Despite this setback, I now have the opportunity to transfer to another college or apply for a job with my associate's degree—something I never thought possible before. The CARE Program, along with EOPS, made sure I had everything I needed to succeed. They helped me through the registration process, making it easy to enroll in classes without the stress of figuring it all out on my own. They also provided grants and scholarships that eased my financial burdens, allowing me to focus on my studies instead of worrying about how to pay for school.

Beyond academics, the CARE Program has been a proper lifeline for my son and me. They have provided food, hygiene products, and other essential resources for students in need. There were days when I wasn't sure how I would make ends meet, but CARE made sure I had what I needed to take care of myself and my child. Their kindness and generosity have been a blessing, reminding me that I am part of a community that genuinely cares.

I cannot express enough gratitude for the CARE Program and everything they have done for me. They have given me the support to continue my journey, even through difficult times. Thanks to their help, I am moving forward with hope and confidence, knowing that I have the education and resources to create a better future for my son and myself.





M. Ellis

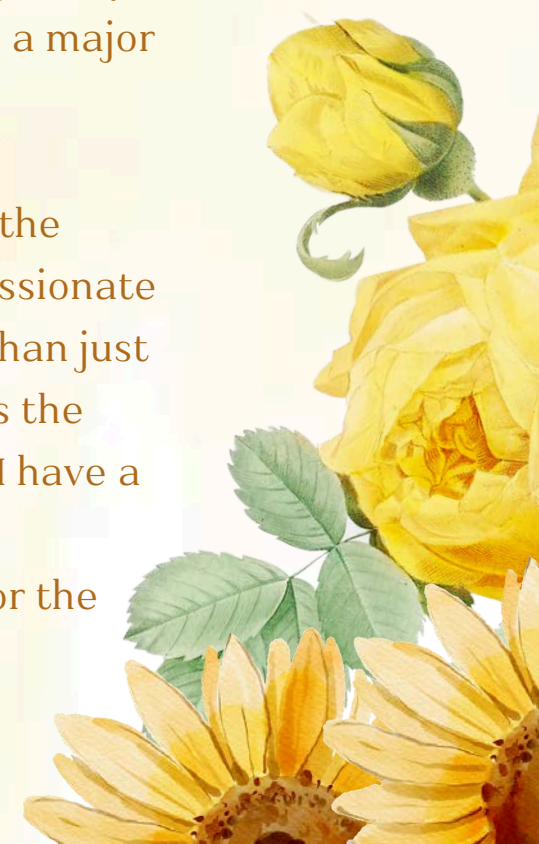

Associate of Arts Degree for Transfer/English



I am truly grateful and honored to be selected as a recipient of the \$500 CARE Grant for Spring 2025. This grant is not only a testament to the hard work I've put into my academic journey thus far, but also a reflection of the unwavering support I've received from the EOPS/CARE program at Barstow Community College. It has been a critical part of my success, providing me with resources and encouragement at every step of my educational path.

From the very beginning, the EOPS/CARE program has been a vital support system for me. The personalized counseling and academic advising have helped me navigate the oftenoverwhelming world of both college life and parenting. I am a full-time single father of two and a full-time college student who works two jobs. Without the guidance of the program, I would have found it difficult to understand how to stay on track with my courses, manage my time, and plan for the future. The staff has always been there to offer advice, provide a listening ear, and make sure that I have the tools I need to succeed.

Beyond academic support, the CARE program has provided financial assistance that has alleviated much of the stress associated with pursuing higher education. As a student juggling work, family, and school responsibilities, this financial support has been a lifeline. The CARE Grant will allow me to continue focusing on my studies without the constant worry of how I will pay for textbooks, supplies, and other academic-related expenses. It's not just a financial contribution; it's a major investment into my future, which motivates me to keep pushing forward.

One of the most meaningful aspects of the CARE program is the sense of community it fosters. Through regular workshops and group events, I've had the opportunity to connect with other students who share similar challenges and experiences as well as staff members who are willing to listen and be compassionate in times of need. This sense of belonging has kept me motivated and reminded me that I'm not alone in this journey. The CARE program has become more than just a resource; it's a source of empowerment and encouragement. This grant is a true blessing, and it represents more than just financial aid—it symbolizes the incredible support and belief in my potential. I am proud to be a part of the EOPS/CARE program, and I am excited to continue working hard, knowing that I have a team behind me. I hope my story inspires other students to take advantage of this amazing program and see what a positive impact it can have on their educational journey. Thank you once again to the EOPS/CARE program for this incredible opportunity. I am excited for the future and the doors that will continue to open because of the support I've received.







M. Thomas



Certificate of Achievement/Family Daycare

My name is Mary Thomas, and I've been part of the CARE program for two years now. When I started my first year at college two years ago, I was like a lost puppy. I was nervous and a little intimidated by the college campus, and I was questioning myself if I had made the wrong choice. I remember receiving an acceptance letter in an email from the CARE program. It said I had been accepted into their program, that's where I went first.

When I walked into the building, I felt the happiness and joy of the staff, and most importantly, they made me feel welcome from the moment I arrived. All of the staff have been there and are still there to help me, from my class and counseling appointment to all of the other resources. I am in my second year at Barstow Community College, and without this program and its resources, such as the food pantry and personal help services, along with the parenting classes, I may not have made it this far. Additional resources that I am thankful for are the closing closet and the communication that this staff has provided. Without this program, I would feel alone and a bit out of place. This program has helped me and my family in more ways than I can genuinely say. This program, along with many others offered at Barstow Community College, has always put the community's needs and interests first in my eyes. The support I have received from the CARE program not only reminds me to keep trying, but also that there is always support available at the K building. No matter who is there, they are willing to go through so much just to help you.

Lastly, when I started this program, I was unsure if I was making the right choice and if I could handle college. I had fears and doubts, but with the CARE program helping from the beginning, it's the one thing that made my years attending Barstow Community College successful. It has been two years now, and I have earned a certificate. I am continuing to pursue an associate's degree and studying in various fields for my future. I am more confident, wiser, and can't wait to drive into college and see the people who have made sure that I am successful and deserve this.



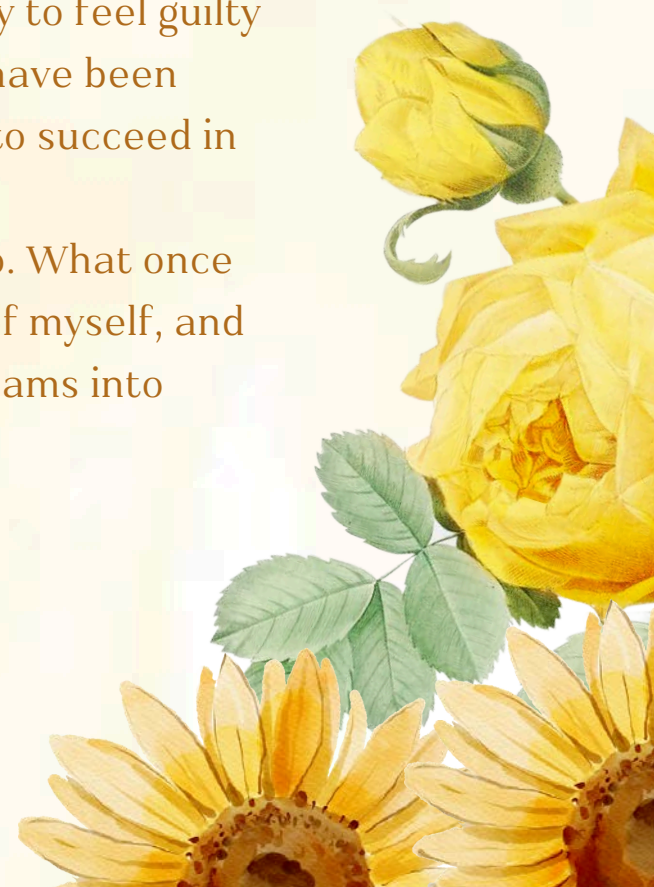





N. Gamez

Associates of Arts Degree for Transfer/Psychology

The CARE Program has truly been a game-changer in my journey at Barstow Community College. The incredible support and benefits it offers have kept me motivated and on track every step of the way. One of the most valuable aspects of this program is how it has helped ease my financial worries, allowing me to focus more on my education and less on my daily stressors. There have been times when life gets overwhelming. Still, I receive friendly reminders about the weekly grocery care cards or the workshops available to earn benefits cards—these reminders have made an enormous difference. These benefits cards have helped lighten my financial load, allowing me to purchase necessities that I otherwise might not have been able to afford. It may seem minor to some, but to me and my family, it has been an absolute blessing. When I first started my college journey, my biggest concern was who would care for my son and how I would afford childcare while pursuing my education. Thanks to the CARE program, that worry was lifted. I was able to access a trusted childcare provider and take advantage of the Care childcare stipend, which gave me the peace of mind I needed to focus entirely on my coursework. As a single parent, it's easy to feel guilty about time spent away from my children, but this program has not only supported me—it has empowered me. Because of the CARE Program, I have been academically supported by attending workshops that focus on my success, not only during my time at this college, but also provide me with tools to succeed in life after I graduate.

I feel more confident and driven than ever before. It has shown me that with determination and resilience, I can achieve anything I set my mind to. What once felt like a distant dream—starting my career—is now becoming a reality. This program has helped me unlock a stronger, more determined version of myself, and for that, I will always be grateful. Thank you to the CARE Program for believing in students like me and for providing the support that turns dreams into achievements!



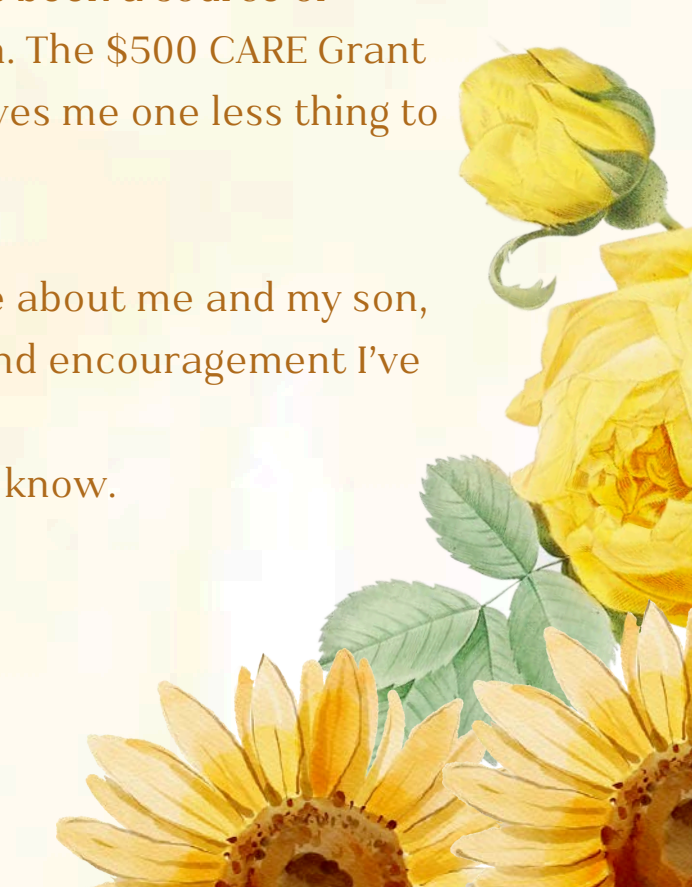
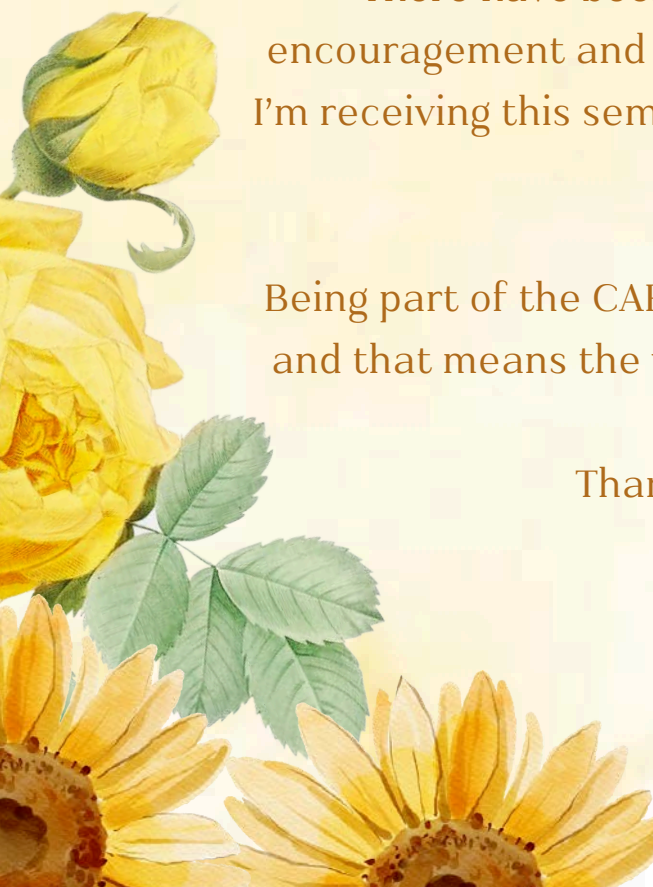


R. Carmona

Associate of Science/Business

My name is Rebecca Carmona, and I'm currently a student at Barstow Community College, proudly part of the EOPS/CARE Program. I'm also a single mother to my beautiful baby boy, Diego, and I work while attending school full-time. Balancing life isn't easy, but the CARE Program has truly been a lifesaver for my little family and me.

From the very beginning, the support I've received through CARE has made a massive difference in my life. Whether it's helping with financial needs, school supplies, or just providing a friendly face and kind words, the staff at CARE have always shown up for me. Every time I go in to pick up my benefits card or attend a meeting, I'm greeted with a smile or some kind word, or something that reminds me I'm not alone.



There have been moments when I've felt overwhelmed, questioning how I would make everything work - school, work, and parenting - but CARE has been a source of encouragement and relief. Knowing that I have this support system and community behind me has allowed me to keep going, even when things get tough. The \$500 CARE Grant I'm receiving this semester is more than just money; it's a reminder that my hard work is being seen and appreciated. It helps me provide for Diego and gives me one less thing to worry about.

Being part of the CARE Program makes me feel valued and empowered, and helps me stay focused. I'm not just another student; they know me, they care about me and my son, and that means the world to me. I'm genuinely grateful to be part of this program and can only hope that more students like me find the same support and encouragement I've received.

Thank you, CARE Program, for helping me stay motivated, encouraged, and hopeful for the future. You've made a bigger impact than you know.