

## EOPS - CARE Program

Melissa Soria

Submitted by The EOPS Team

Melissa Soria started SBCC through the SPARC (Single Parents Arriving Ready for College) Program in 2017 which provides parenting students an opportunity to transform their lives through education. Following the program, Melissa became a regular in EOPS. She built meaningful relationships with other student parents and became a resource for fellow EOPS students. She was hired to work as a Peer Mentor in the SPARC and Transitions programs, and then as a year-round CARE Peer Mentor. As a one-time systems-impacted youth and Sociology major, Melissa is a compassionate leader who intends to use her lived experience and education as a vehicle for change for other young people. Melissa will be transferring to a four-year institution in the Fall to pursue a Bachelor's degree, and her son Max will be starting Kindergarten! Melissa deserves to be honored for all of her hard earned accomplishments. We are so proud of her and cannot wait to see what her future holds!

### Melissa's Words of Gratitude

I'm so grateful for meeting the most influential, amazing, and devoted people at S.B.C.C! Thank you for pushing me during moments when I doubted myself. I love and appreciate you all! Big shout out to all my EOPS fam and the TAP program! They have been such a great support system for me during my academic journey and I couldn't have done this without them, and all my baby mommas at the college! much love, Mel