What a Year. It is with a collective sigh of relief that we end the 2020-21 academic school year and hold our breath with great anticipation for what is to come in the fall semester. Transitions are never easy but with the way things are going, it is easier to stay hopeful as we plan a return to campus. Other feelings such as optimism with slight tinge of trepidation are in the mix but nonetheless, we are ready to take on the new opportunities and challenges!

Speaking of challenges… with the pandemic's end in sight, we know it has caused one of greatest disruptions to education and a worsening of California's already critical teacher shortage. We (society) must emerge stronger by investing in efforts that strengthen the pathway to teaching. The Teacher Pathway Program and MAESTROs are committed to the task as we believe our students are highly talented, passionate, and committed to making a difference in their community. There will be changes for everyone in the new school year but ultimately, changes for the betterment of our students and community.

Thank you for standing with us as we navigate uncharted waters (again). We hope you enjoy this newsletter as we highlight the changes and transitions for the 2021-22 school year.

Sincerely,
TPP/MAESTROs team
Looking for hands-on teaching experience with students within the K-12 level? Or simply want to give back to your community? Our team asked two Corps programs, MiniCorps and AmeriCorps Monterey County United for Literacy, what their program is about and how you can get involved in a rewarding experience!

Can you briefly tell us what exactly MiniCorps/AmeriCorps is and where its office is located in our county?

**MiniCorps**: A state-wide program that hires future bilingual teachers to work tutoring migrant students. The main office is in Sacramento and the two local offices are at Hartnell and CSUMB.

**AmeriCorps**: Is a national network of hundreds of programs across the nation, Monterey County United for Literacy is just one of them. Our office is located in Salinas at Monterey County Office of Education (MCOE).

What can someone who joins your program expect to do? Where are they placed?

**MiniCorps**: If hired, you will tutor migrant students in a small group or one on one setting. You can be placed in any school in the county that has a concentrated number of migrant students. The pay is $14.00 per hour.

**AmeriCorps**: We recruit service members every school year to serve as Literacy Tutors. They serve the critical need of supporting students that struggle with reading. They are placed at the school sites from the districts that we partner up with to fill that need.

Who benefits from these services?

**MiniCorps**: The students you tutor and you as a future teacher because you are not only getting tons of experience working with students, but also valuable professional development and guidance to become a teacher in the state of California.

**AmeriCorps**: The students that our Literacy Tutors serve are the ones that benefit from our program.

Requirements to be considered for a position:

**MiniCorps**: Full-time college student, goal to become a teacher, bilingual, on financial aid.

**AmeriCorps**: Must be 18 years of age or older, high school diploma or higher, FBI/DOJ background clearance, TB Clearance, US citizen or permanent resident, and enjoy serving kids!

What is the commitment time frame?

**MiniCorps**: You can continue in the program as long as you are a full time college student, even when you transfer since we have the program in most state universities.

**AmeriCorps**: The commitment time frame is August 30, 2021 to July 31, 2022.
Your advice as a recruiter of things to consider when thinking about applying to MiniCorps.

MiniCorps: We have limited positions and they fill up very quickly so apply at the end of July for fall semester. Email Lorena Silva at lsilva@bcoe.org.

AmeriCorps: The most important thing to consider is the school year commitment to the program. After satisfactorily completing a full year of service our members qualify for two education awards that total $10,000. If you are interested in being considered to be part of our awesome team and learn more about the program, please go onto our MCOE Website or contact Irma Lopez at ilopez@montereycoe.org and apply today!

TESTIMONIALS FROM PAST SERVICE MEMBERS

The program has helped me become a better future teacher because it has provided me with a preview of how being a teacher will be. It has taught me how the classroom works and its dynamics, the relationship between student and teacher, and the dynamics between teachers and staff. You could say that it has given me a glimpse of what awaits me in the future. And I love having the opportunity to teach the students mini-lessons and watch them grow and feel happy and proud of themselves, and to me, that is very rewarding. Mini-Corps has taught me many skills, from instructional skills to communication, leadership, teamwork, and many more. All of the skills that I have acquired from the program will help me out later once I have my classroom since I have learned and put those skills into practice.

- Patricia Rangel Regalado
  Student, Hartnell College

MiniCorps provided me with my first opportunity to be a teacher’s aid. Through this opportunity I met amazing role models such as Leticia Lopez, who was the director of the Valdés Math Institute I worked for. After I graduated from college, she continued to mentor me as a high school teacher when we worked in the same high school. Working directly with migrant students such as myself gave me the confidence that I could make a difference as a teacher in my community. One of the most valuable lessons I learned as a teacher’s assistant in the MiniCorps program is that teaching is a lot more than just lesson planning and grading. I learned that it is essential to get to know your students and the obstacles they face by opening up to them and sharing your own struggles. When a students knows that you genuinely care about them and their success; they are more likely to trust you and be invested in the subject matter. Another skill I learned is to incorporate a variety of activities during class to engage all students. In particular, it is important to provide students with opportunities to learn by struggling and make mistakes because when they see themselves as capable of solving problems on their own, they learn to embrace challenges as opportunities for growth.

- Leti Contreras
  Mathematics Faculty, Hartnell College
TAYLOR OGLETREE
TPP-Cohort 4

“I am a Salinas native, and I plan to teach here in the Salinas Valley. I would like to teach third or fourth grade because that’s when students begin to learn some really interesting math and science concepts. Throughout my education, I have had a few teachers and instructors. My fourth grade teacher Mr. Hannum was incredibly passionate about teaching. Mr. Lopez here at Hartnell was super inspiring in COM-1 and helped me to find the confidence to be a great student.”

JESUA BUCIO
MAESTROS

“I was born and raised in Salinas California. I am still not sure if I will be teaching here in Salinas, or if I will be teaching in another city or state. I would like to teach first grade or second grade. I think that is a perfect age to teach because the students are not too small and they will be older and more mature than a kindergartner. Mr. Ashby, my history high school teacher, inspired me to pursue my goal to become a teacher because the way he was with his students and the way he did every subject he talked about was interesting and fun!”

CONTINUE READING THEIR STORIES HERE!
ADAPTATIONS IN THE "RETURN" OF NORMALITY

We are entering a period of transition in which key changes will be taking place. Change has been hinted at and foreshadowed. While we chose some change, other changes are "thrown at us". Transitions can be life’s way of asking us to reexamine our present way of being and force us to develop and grow as individuals.

The Teacher Pathway Program and MAESTROs project will have changes within its staffing. Nicolasa Villalobos, Program Assistant for MAESTROs and Teacher Pathway Program left Hartnell College at the end of June to pursue a Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology at Texas Tech University this fall semester.

While her time in the position was brief, she was integral in improving office policies and procedures and played an important role in recruiting new participants. Nicolasa will be missed! We wish her well in her new endeavor and are proud that our Hartnell and CSUMB alum will be making a big impact in the field of Psychology!

Jihan Ejan, who serves as program Director, departs from Hartnell College mid-July after serving in this role for 3 years. She will be the new Counselor/Coordinator at MPC’s Marina Education Center.

Our programs' participants wholeheartedly appreciate all the dedication and guidance provided to them on their journeys towards becoming teachers. More importantly, she modeled to us the spirit of collaboration and leadership with great enthusiasm as she worked across institutions to promote student success. We wish her the best as she returns to her Counseling roots!

We thank Jihan and Nicolasa for their tireless efforts and steadfast dedication to supporting future educators!

Our students are undergoing transitions as well. With classes beginning to be offered in-person for summer and fall, adjustments are having to be made with other aspects of their lives, like work and family. Taking all that into consideration, we are planning for some fall programming to be in-person, like CBEST prep workshops and potential visit to the Tech Museum for curriculum design training. Our activities and events are designed to continually promote a strong sense of identity as it relates to being a teacher.

With that said, we ask students and those interested in our programs to be patient as we fill vacant positions. We take great pride in serving our future educators and will continue to do so as we all transition and adapt to new changes.
Join the CSUMB MAESTROs team at these informational sessions for potential CSUMB Spring 2022 transfer students. They will be discussing the different pathways students can take to becoming K-12 teachers and information relevant to their CSUMB application! RSVP for both sessions HERE.

Our team is here to support our students, even during the summer break! To schedule a 1:1 appointment with our Coordinator Jesus, please use THIS link.

CSUMB TRANSFER INFORMATIONAL SESSION FOR STUDENTS ON A TEACHING PATHWAY
AUG. 3 & 25, 2021, 3PM

Join the CSUMB MAESTROs team at these informational sessions for potential CSUMB Spring 2022 transfer students.

They will be discussing the different pathways students can take to becoming K-12 teachers and information relevant to their CSUMB application!

RSVP for both sessions HERE.

ORIENTATION INCOMING MAESTROS & COHORT 6
UPDATED: AUG. 12, 2021, 9-12PM

We are excited that you've chosen teaching as your profession!

Please save the date for your mandatory Orientation for all incoming and new TPP and MAESTROs students. As we get closer to the event, a calendar invite and agenda will be sent to you.

Our team is looking forward to meeting you all!