



CIS ALUMNI SCTX

2020 NEWSLETTER

2020 • ISSUE 1



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INTRO TO NEWSLETTER

BY JAZMIN NORRIS

The CIS Board is excited to bring you our first alumni newsletter! The purpose of this newsletter is to keep you updated on what is going on in our community, keep you connected, and showcase our support for each and every CIS South Central Texas Alum. This newsletter will feature stories to draw inspiration from, showcase our major events, and bring attention to all the positive things we have worked together to accomplish. Be on the lookout for four editions to come! Thank you for your continuous support and for everything you do to keep each other going! Welcome to the first ever Winter Edition Newsletter.





MENTORS & MENTEEES



MORGAN, HECTOR, AND RENN

BY JAZMIN NORRIS

Looking into the relationship that Morgan has with her mentees, Hector and Renn, there is a certain warmth that vibrates from it. Their favorite things to do is going out to eat, but due to the pandemic they have found other ways to engage by texting and calling. They use technology to their advantage and host socially distanced events like art-in-the-park and virtual game nights! The support that Hector experiences from their relationship includes information that helped him get familiar with his college, different perspectives, advice concerning social situations, and words of encouragement allowing him to feel more confident in stepping out of his comfort zone. Renn has also experience a similar encouraging and beneficial relationship with Morgan. Renn knows that Morgan is a reliable source of good advice and validation. She also knows that with some encouragement from Morgan she too can also step out of her comfort zone.

DAMION AND JORGE

BY JAZMIN NORRIS

Building a connection is the first step towards having a successful mentor and mentee relationship and Damion and Jorge did just that. The bond for them started at our week long Lock In when they had a realization of a mutual love for steak. The activities they bond over are mainly playing video games and going over to Damion's apartment to grill. Damion points out that the time they spend together is great because it is "sober fun". He states that they don't have to get messed up to have a good time - unlike what our current culture implies to young people. Jorge describes their bond as genuine and flowing. He likes that nothing ever feels scripted with Damion. He even sends Damion his music to get a fresh perspective, feedback, and new ideas. Jorge's music can be found on Soundcloud at "uzsmah" where he displays his creativity! For Damion, this is his second year as a mentor and he loves his role because it helps to keep people connected to CIS. He feels that mentoring is important because it allows the ball to keep rolling for the next generation by creating healthy relationships and safe spaces for the Communities In School's alumni family.





OVERVIEW OF 2020

**JANUARY
FIRST BOARD
MEETING**



**JANUARY
WINTER
CAMPING TRIP**



**JUNE
LEADERSHIP
CAMPING TRIP**



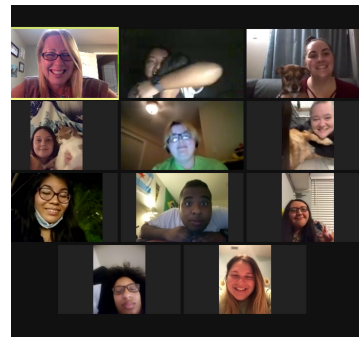
**NOVEMBER
FAMILY
REUNION BBQ**



**MARCH
KINDERSCHUTE
5K RUN**



**JULY
LOCK IN**



**DECEMBER
MINDFULNESS
IN THE PARK**

**FEBRUARY
TEXAS STATE
FEILD TRIP**



**MAY
MCKENNA CENTER**



**SEPTEMBER
MENTOR CALL**





MAJOR LIFE EVENTS

2020 Graduates



Alexa Cantu

High School: New Braunfels High School '10

College: Texas Lutheran University

Major: Psychology



Kim Vargas

High School: Samuel Clemens High School '15

College: Texas State University

Major: Social Work



Melanie Olguin

High School: Canyon High School '17

College: Texas Lutheran University

Major: Nursing

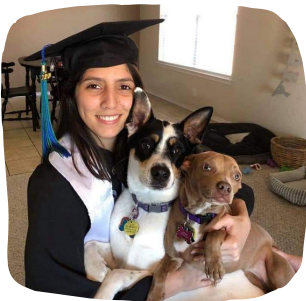


Emmalee Buesinger

High School: Bryon P. Steele High School '15

College: Texas State University

Major: Public Administration with Minor in Writing



Emma Ruiz

High School: Bryon P. Steele High School '15

College: Texas A&M University Corpus Christi

Major: Clinical Laboratory Science



Alisa Smith

High School: Bryon P. Steele High School '14

College: Texas State University

Major: Social Work



Kiana Cervantes

High school: Bryon P. Steele High School '17

College: Northeast Lakeview College

Major: Applied Arts



Josef Leachman

High School: Bryon P. Steele High School '17

College: Tarleton University

Major: Wildlife, Sustainability, Ecosystem Sciences with Minor in Biology and Soil Science



MAJOR LIFE EVENTS



MarkDavid Mercado **U.S. Army Signal Corp Officer**

MarkDavid Mercado is a prime example of the American dream. He moved from the Philippines to America at the age of 10 not knowing any English, was a 1st generation college student at UTSA, earned his degree in Electrical Engineering, and joined the military as a Signal Corp Officer in the 82nd Airborne Division. Mercado has been a member of Communities In Schools since 2010 and contributes his excellent situational leadership skills to CIS due to being a mentor. He states, "I was able to adapt and change leadership styles depending on the personality of the individual in order to embrace and empower them on different levels." Other important skills that Mercado gained through CIS was how to care for others and effectively communicate. This has contributed to his success in the military by being able to adapt, lead, and gain the trust of his soldiers varying in age between 18 to 33. Mercado is now set to be pinned as a Captain in May of 2021. Mercado was one of 3,000 paratroopers within the 82nd Airborne Division, 1st Brigade Combat Team as part of the Immediate Response Force (IRF) that rushed to Kuwait during the first week of January to bolster security for U.S. troops in the region after an American airstrike killed Iran's most powerful general. Army officials described the deployment that required soldiers to leave within hours as the "most significant no notice deployment of combat forces" in three decades.

Frank Galvan **Top to Bottom Pool Service, LLC**

Mr. Frank Galvan is the successful business owner of South Texas Top to Bottom Pool Service located in New Braunfels, Texas. Mr. Galvan graduated from New Braunfels High school in 2012 and during his time there participated in the XY Zone program through CIS. This program is tailored for adolescent boys and hosts male get-togethers that create a safe place to bond over issues and allow a network of support. Mr. Galvan did trust building exercises and states it taught him, "leadership and also how to communicate with others.", two important skills he says he utilizes in leading his team. He took the risk of starting up his own business after acquiring skills to make him a successful entrepreneur in the pool industry. Mr. Galvan says that his overall time in CIS programs taught him to become better at leading and taught him the importance of helping others so he can be there for his excellent employees.





HIGHLIGHTS

Volunteer Hours



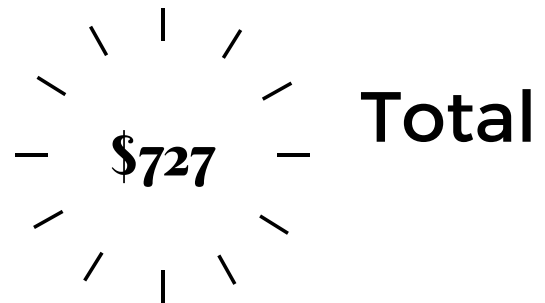
Thank you to our Partners and Donors who have graciously supported our alumni association work. Our Alumni Board greatly appreciates your contribution to our program. Your support allows us to further reach our mission of supporting students by providing them with an encouraging community that motivates them to lead a life of success.

- Texas Parks and Wildlife CO-OP Grant
- Texas Outdoor Family
- Weisman Family
- Hunter Industries
- Jimmy and Sheila Jacobs
- Grand Endeavor Homes
- Lazy L&L Campgrounds
- Daniel Grove Photography
- Dr. Rick Sperling, Ph.D.
- St. Mary's University Associate Professor of Psychology
- St. Mary's University Psychology Department of Community-Based Assessment and Evaluation Team
- Offsite Virtual Game Room by Matthew MacDonell

Our 2020 Mentors

Special thanks to our amazing alumni mentors:
 Ashleigh Murie, Valentino Trevino, Nakya Anderson,
 Alain Dominguez, Nessa Ridley, Morgan Valera,
 Jeffy Dotson, Leo Tinajera, Jazmin Norris,
 Damion McCuiston, Kiana Cervantes, Nubia Saenz,
 Elsa Vasquez, Gabby Gibbs, Michelle Vasquez,
 Mecca Mikell, Jalin Pea, Allison Rothrock, John Fly,
 Valeria Mireles, Derrek McFarlane, Maria Gonzales,
 Brianna Gaetz, Emmalee Buesinger, Sadie Perez,
 and Kierra Morgan

Membership Dues



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www.cissctalumni.com

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Goals for 2021

- Goal 1: Reach 2,021 Volunteer Hours**
- Goal 2: Collect \$2,021 in Membership Dues**
- Goal 3: Have 2,021 Instagram Followers**