

# HAMBERKY

A COMMUNITY AND RESOURCE GUIDE





I AM  
SEEN





# AT BERKELEY, WE SEE YOU

And Berkeley is at its best when you bring your whole self. The community you came from. The questions you dare to ask. The challenges you've conquered to get here. The dreams about how you'll make a difference.

This guide highlights our one-of-a-kind academic opportunities, supportive programs, inclusive centers and spaces, dedicated staff, and countless student organizations that are here to help you find your voice.

**Come get to know us.  
Because you belong here.**

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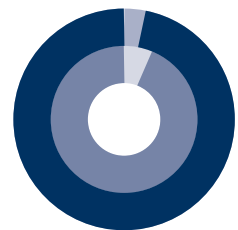
# I AM A SCHOLAR

Pursue knowledge beyond the classroom walls. Work on research with renowned faculty who have a passion for teaching. Be challenged by peers who bring a diversity of experience to the table.

## Retention rates for first-year students\*

**97%**  
FRESHMAN STUDENTS

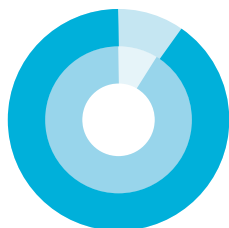
**94.5%**  
TRANSFER STUDENTS



**\*Retention rate:** Percentage of students who return the following year.



## Graduation rates



91%

FRESHMAN STUDENTS

92%

TRANSFER STUDENTS

## SUPPORTING YOUR ACADEMIC SUCCESS

**Academic Centers:** Provide a one-stop-shop in residence halls for academic enrichment, services, and resources.

**Berkeley Connect:** Matches you with a graduate student mentor and connects you with professors, alumni, and students sharing similar interests.

**Biology Scholars, Chemistry Scholars, Data Scholars:** Advising, mentorship, academic support, and more for underrepresented students in specific fields.

### Cal NERDS (New Experiences for Research and Diversity in Science):

Works with nontraditional STEM students to provide opportunities in leadership development, undergraduate research, tech training, preparation for grad school, career planning, and more.

### Educational Opportunity Program (EOP):

Academic counseling, mentoring, and a support system for first-generation, low-income, and underrepresented students.

**Student Learning Center:** Academic consultations, tutoring, workshops, study groups, and more. Available to all students.

32%

OF THE 2020  
ENTERING CLASS ARE  
FIRST-GENERATION  
COLLEGE STUDENTS

32%

OF STUDENTS ARE PELL  
GRANT RECIPIENTS

**“EOP  
provided  
me with academic  
counselors and mentors  
who are passionate about seeing  
their students succeed. They helped me  
find a sense of belonging during my transition.”**

**Millie H., MAJORS: Legal Studies and Political Science**

“  
**There are classes,  
professors, and a history  
of radical thinking at  
Berkeley that produce  
a community of  
students willing to  
support and fight  
for design aimed  
at social good.**”

**Bryanna B.**

MAJOR: Mechanical Engineering

A first-generation college student, she worked on a team that developed a prosthetic hand for a 3-year-old child using human-centered design principles.





**“I do everything I can to welcome my students as full human beings, with a wide range of personal histories and backgrounds. Learning from one another with so much rich life experience in the room is thrilling!”**

**Brandi Wilkins Catanese**

Associate Professor, African American Studies and Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies

A proud Berkeley alum, expert on African American theater and popular culture.



**“Transfer students bring an incredible amount of energy, maturity, and knowledge, and they go on to do amazing things. I was a transfer student and a first-generation college student, and I always tell students that if I can do it, they can do it too.”**

**Diana Bautista**

Associate Professor, Department of Molecular and Cell Biology

Conducts research on the sensations of itch, touch, and pain.





# I AM SUPPORTED

College is a big transition, and we're here to help you every step of the way. Succeed academically, stay healthy, and thrive socially with the support of our staff and programs.

## CONNECTIONS FOR SUPPORT AND COMMUNITY

Our offices and centers are places where you can start to build your own social network. Dedicated staff and fellow students are there to help you connect with others, find your way through challenges, and find your voice.

### **African American Student**

**Development:** Supports African American students and enhances their undergraduate experience. Includes the Fannie Lou Hamer Center, a space for Black students and groups to organize and engage in academic and social activities.

### **Asian Pacific American Student**

**Development:** Supports the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities and enhances their undergraduate experience. Programs include the Asian Pacific Islander Issues Conference, held at Berkeley since 1990, and the South Asian, Southwest Asian, and North African Initiative.

**Basic Needs Center:** The campus hub supporting food, housing, and economic justice through prevention, intervention, and emergency relief efforts. Services include nutrition and cooking resources, the Berkeley Food Pantry, the Emergency Housing Support program, and more.







**Berkeley Hope Scholars:** Provides support and community for students who are current and former foster youth, probation youth, or who were orphaned before the age of 18.

**Berkeley International Office:** Advising, immigration services, advocacy, and programs for international students.

**Berkeley Underground Scholars:** Recruitment, support, and advocacy for formerly incarcerated and justice-impacted students.

**Cal Veteran Services Center:** Programs and services promoting the academic and personal success of student veterans.

**Chicanx Latinx Student Development:** Supports Chicanx Latinx students and enhances their undergraduate experience. Events include the bilingual Familia Orientation, a Día de los Muertos celebration, the Latinos and the Environment conference, and a Chicanx/ Latinx graduation.

**Disabled Students' Program:** With nearly 40 staff members serving 2,700 students, the DSP works with units across campus to provide services and academic accommodations for students with disabilities.

**Gender Equity Resource Center (GenEq):** Resources, services, education, and leadership programs relating to gender and sexuality. Its Queer Cal Pals program matches incoming LGBTQ+ students with a current student “buddy” to provide support.

**Multicultural Community Center:** A student-led, student-won multipurpose community center where students can study, meet, and take part in various events and programs.

**Native American Student Development:** Supports Native American students and enhances their undergraduate experience. Events include a community powwow (annually for 40 years and counting) and Native Graduation.

**Re-Entry Student Program:** Resources and community for the 1,800+ undergraduate students aged 25 and older who are returning to higher education.

**Student Parent Center:** Holistic support for undergraduate and graduate students who are engaged scholars as well as devoted parents.

**Transfer Student Center:** Programs, mentoring, advising, classes, workshops, and community for students transferring from another college.

**Undocumented Student Program:** Academic counseling, legal support, financial aid resources, and extensive campus referral network for undocumented students.

**University Health Services:** Comprehensive medical, mental health, insurance, and health promotion services for Berkeley students. Named a “Leader in LGBT Healthcare Equality” by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation.



**“We are dedicated to fostering community, a sense of belonging, and political engagement for Chicanx Latinx students.”**

**Evelyn Rojo**, Assistant Director,  
Chicanx Latinx Student Development

**“I want undocumented students to know they are not alone. They have a village of staff, peers, and community to support them through the highs and lows.”**

**Liliana Iglesias**

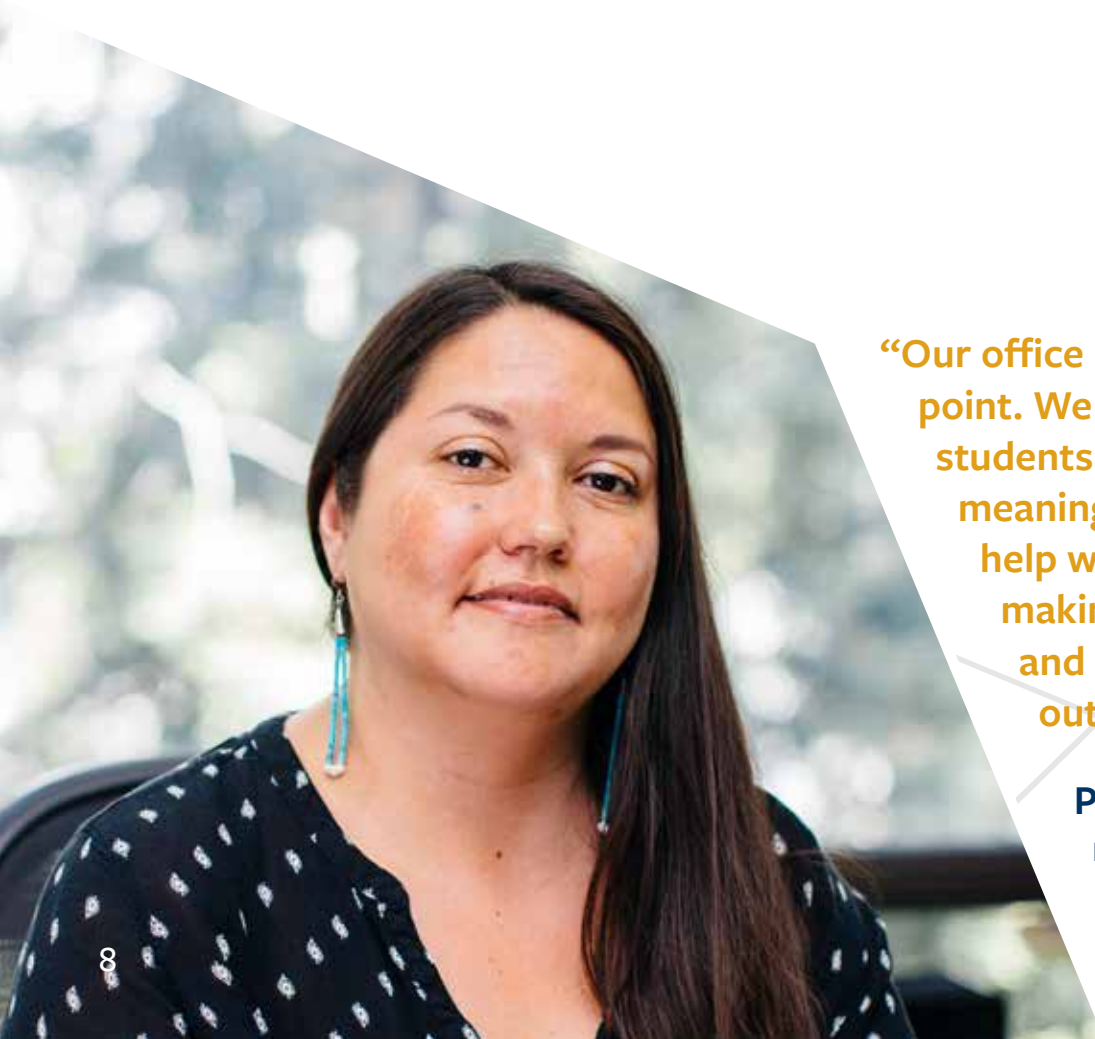
Program Director,  
Undocumented Student Program



**“Our office is the connection point. We want to support students holistically — meaning support academically, help with financial aid, and making sure you’re healthy and that you get the most out of your time here.”**

**Phenocia Bauerle**

Director, Native American  
Student Development

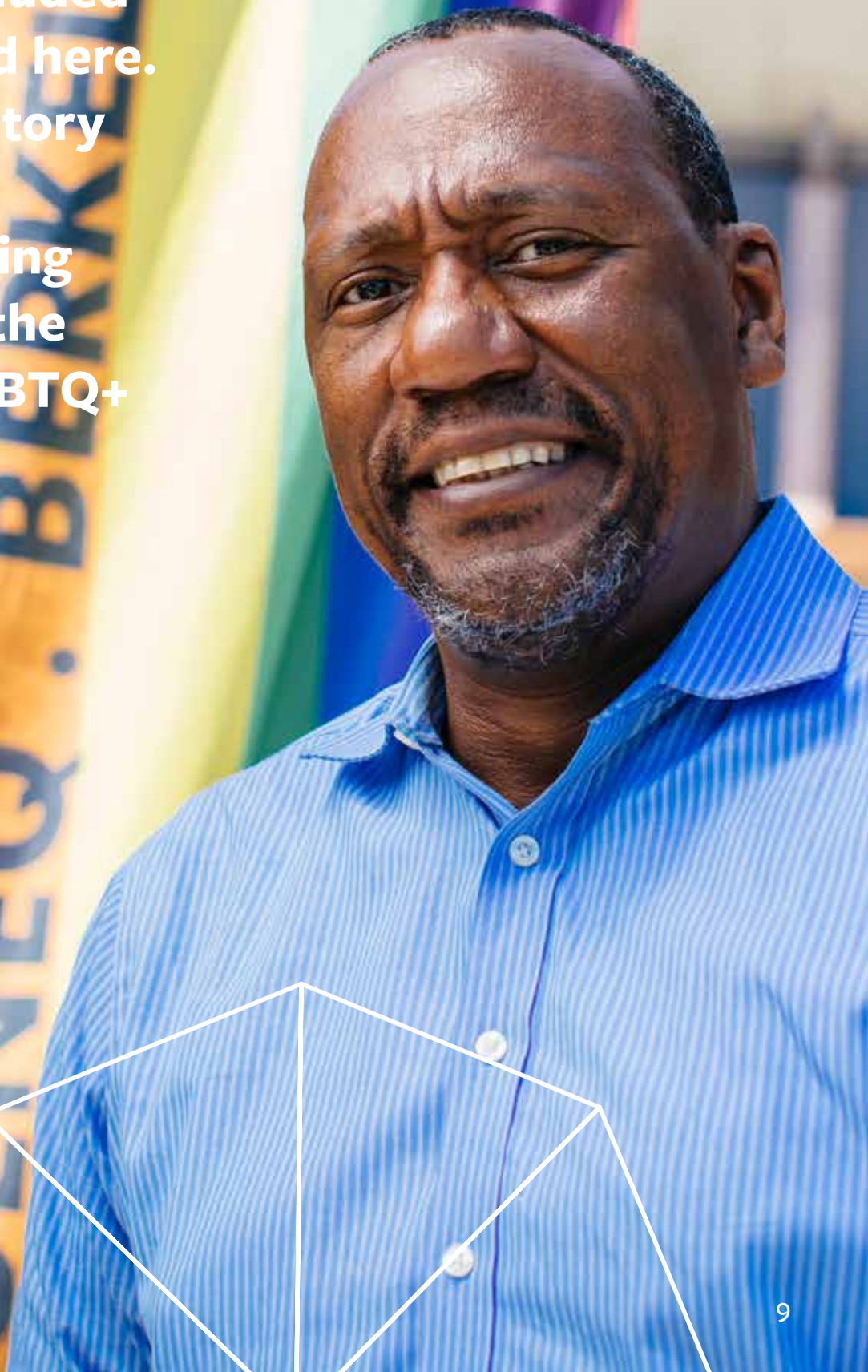




“As an LGBTQ+ student,  
you’ll feel included  
and respected here.  
We have a history  
as one of the  
most welcoming  
campuses in the  
nation for LGBTQ+  
students.”

**Billy Curtis**

Director, Gender Equity  
Resource Center





# I AM PART OF A COMMUNITY

We can't wait to meet you! No matter who you are and where you came from, you can find your community and home at Berkeley.

## **bridges**

A student-run organization dedicated to recruiting and retaining students of color. Its seven centers offer welcoming communities and events, opportunities to help recruit students, and avenues for mobilization and advocacy.

- > Black Recruitment and Retention Center
- > Indigenous and Native Coalition Recruitment and Retention Center
- > Middle Eastern and North African Recruitment and Retention Center
- > Mixed @ Berkeley Recruitment and Retention Center
- > Pilipinx Academic Student Services
- > Raíces Recruitment and Retention Center
- > REACH! Asian and Pacific Islander Recruitment and Retention Center

**[bridges.berkeley.edu](https://bridges.berkeley.edu)**

## **RESIDENTIAL THEME PROGRAMS**

Close-knit living and learning communities of students sharing a common thematic and academic interest.

- > African American Theme Program
- > Asian Pacific American Theme House
- > Casa Magdalena Mora (Chicanx Latinx theme program)
- > Global Environment Theme House
- > Native American Theme Program
- > Unity House Theme Program (LGBTQ+ theme program)
- > Empowering Women in STEAM (WISE)

**[housing.berkeley.edu/theme](https://housing.berkeley.edu/theme)**

## **STUDENT CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS**

Get involved. Join one of 1,200 student clubs and organizations on campus. From the B-Side music magazine to the Cal Quidditch Team, from the Latinx Pre-Law Society to Virtual Reality at Berkeley, Berkeley has it all. Connect through our biannual student activity fair or visit:

**[callink.berkeley.edu](https://callink.berkeley.edu)**





**Black Wednesday:**  
Most Wednesdays at noon, Black students, faculty, and staff gather at Sproul Plaza to socialize and build community.

**UNITY Drag Show:**  
Annual drag show for students and by students, hosted by the Unity House Theme Program. A tradition for 12+ years.



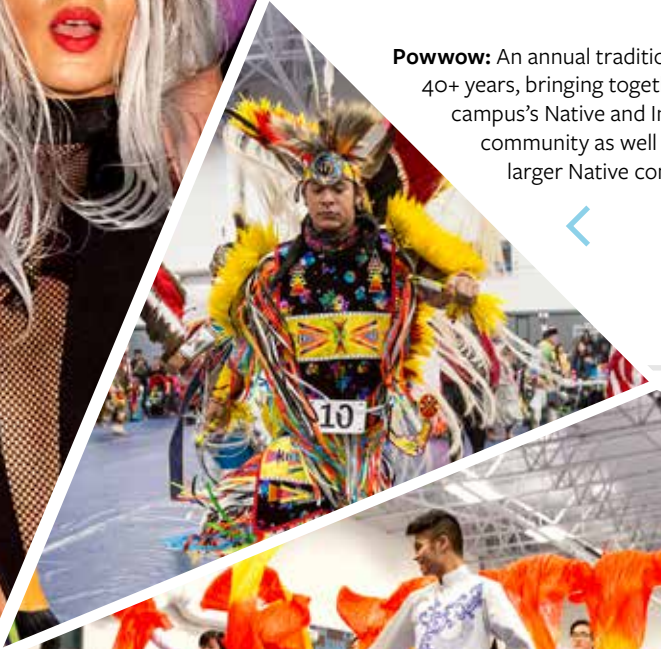
**Big Game Rally:**  
Annual rally held the night before the legendary football game with rival Stanford. Features the largest bonfire west of the Mississippi.



**Mariachi Luz de Oro de Berkeley:** A student group that performs traditional and modern mariachi music.



**Pilipinx Culture Night:**  
A student-run production celebrating Pilipinx culture. A tradition for 50+ years.



**Powwow:** An annual tradition for 40+ years, bringing together the campus's Native and Indigenous community as well as the larger Native community.



**Vietnamese Student Association:** Produces VSA Culture Night, an annual student production that's been a tradition for 40+ years.



“  
**I found my community  
by living in the Afro  
Floor [African American  
Theme Program],  
surrounding myself  
with folks that look  
like me and who are  
interested in the  
same things that I  
am interested in.**  
”

**Blessing J.**

MAJOR: Public Health





**“I was able to find my community at Berkeley through the EOP center.**

**I was also able to build community with the Queer Student Union, where I met other LGBTQ+ students.”**

**Julio R.**

Transfer student  
MAJOR: Social Welfare  
MINOR: Gender and Women’s Studies



**“When I think of what has helped me grow the most, it has definitely been the people I have had the good fortune to work with and learn from.”**

**Drew W.**

MAJOR: Theater and Performing Arts  
Wrote his first play about his experience as a Native American actor in a class with playwright and professor Philip Kan Gotanda.





# I AM A LEADER

Join a community that turns knowledge into action. Students here have a track record for making change on campus and beyond.

## OPPORTUNITIES TO LEAD AND SERVE

**ASUC:** The Associated Students of the University of California (ASUC) is one of the nation's largest and most autonomous student government organizations.

**LEAD (Leadership, Engagement, Advising, and Development) Center:** The campus hub for student involvement and leadership development.

**Public Service Center:** Connects students with service and leadership opportunities.

*The Department of Ethnic Studies, one of the first in the country, is established after Berkeley students protest a Eurocentric focus on education.*

1969

Where student voices make a difference

1964

*The national Free Speech Movement is born in Berkeley when students protest rules prohibiting political activities on campus.*

1972

*Feminist organizing leads to the launch of the campus women's center, which has since evolved to become the Gender Equity Resource Center.*





Opening of the Fannie Lou Hamer Black Resource Center after student-led efforts.

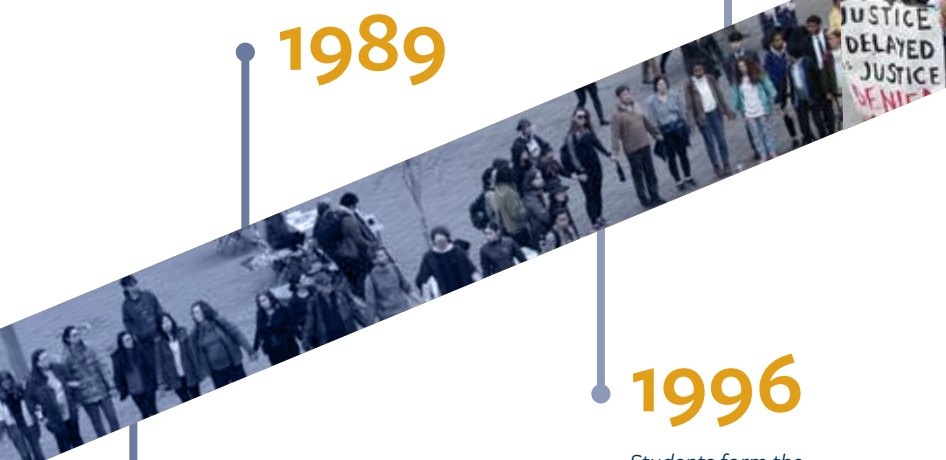
**2017**

A student strike protesting cuts to Ethnic Studies led to the creation of the student-run Multicultural Community Center.

**1999**

After years of student and faculty protest, Berkeley adopted the requirement that all undergraduates take an American Cultures course highlighting the diversity of the American experience.

**1989**



**2018**

With funding provided by a student referendum, Berkeley opens a universal locker room to better serve those with disabilities and members of all gender identities.

**2009**

Students at Berkeley and across the state protest tuition hikes.

**1996**

Students form the bridges Multicultural Resource Center in order to recruit and retain underrepresented students of color in higher education.

**1985**

Berkeley students opposing apartheid protested and rallied for the UC Board of Regents to divest all holdings in South Africa. The Regents later divested.



“  
**I found my home in  
the ASUC and the  
Muslim Students  
Association — pretty  
cool considering I’d  
previously never  
been involved in  
student government  
or a religious student  
organization! It’s  
never too late to try  
out new things!**”

**Saneeha S.**

Transfer student  
MAJOR: Media Studies







**“Being a first-generation college student, I was nervous about having a rough transition into college. However, at Berkeley I was able to find a community that reaffirmed who I was, what I wanted to be, and thoroughly supported me every step of the way.”**

**Johnny N.**

MAJORS: Sociology and Business

**“I would not be the public health professional that I am now if not for my experiences on campus pushing for inclusive health services for Black students at the Tang Center as well through the life-changing service opportunities I received through the Public Service Center.”**

**Brittney Enin, '18**

Health Education Specialist, San Francisco  
Department of Public Health

MAJOR: Public Health  
MINOR: African American Studies





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Discover Berkeley email experience:

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