



## NEW LEADER SCHOLAR BIOS 2006

**LANICE AVERY**, See 2008 entry (awarded a third scholarship)

**TIFFANY BROOKS** graduated from San Francisco State University with a degree in Criminal Justice. Growing up in the foster care system has created a special imperative for her to work toward affecting change in both the foster care and juvenile justice systems. Despite many abusive foster placements, one foster mother inspired her to be the first in her family to attend college. Without her inspiration, Tiffany believes that she, too, would have been another foster child that “went down the wrong track.” She helped create a program for emancipated foster children on campus in addition to her many other mentoring activities. Currently, she is working for the San Francisco State University Police Department as a Crime Prevention Coordinator and has taken classes to prepare for her LSAT exam. Tiffany hopes to attend UCLA law school and simultaneously major in Public Policy. With these joint degrees, she hopes to become an advocate for change in both the juvenile justice and the foster care system.

**TONIA BUI** graduated from U.C. Berkeley with a double major in Gender & Women’s Studies and Mass Communications. Her parents are Vietnamese immigrants who were among the boat people that sought political asylum in the United States. Their struggle has been the cornerstone for Tonia’s desire to pursue higher education and a career in public service. In particular, she has worked on programs to help prevent the human trafficking of women and female minors in the Bay Area of California. She is the former founder and chair of an organization that raises awareness of sex trafficking and assists survivors (Sex Trafficking Obliteration Petition Campaign - STOP). Tonia has also worked as a campus journalist, focusing on human interest stories at the *Daily Californian*. Today, she is a Communications Specialist at the national non-profit, Equal Justice Works, closing the justice gap for underrepresented communities across the nation. Previously, she directed communications for the Hung Nguyen for Delegate Campaign (VA-67) and also coordinated community outreach at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Upon completing her studies at U.C. Berkeley, Tonia served in the House Democratic Caucus under the Vice-Chairmanship of California Congressman Xavier Becerra (CA-34), conducting Member Outreach. In 2013, Tonia completed her Master’s Program in Public Policy at American University with a fellowship that covered all of her tuition and expenses, which enabled her to study full time.

**HONG CAO** graduated with a degree in political science and is now in the Master’s Program in Public Administration at San Jose State University. She is currently a part time employee of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, engaging in community outreach. Upon completion of her Master’s degree, she plans to obtain a doctorate in International Relations. Hong was born in Vietnam, emigrating here in 1993 with her father. In 6<sup>th</sup> grade, following a serious injury to her mother, she took over the delivery route of the San Jose Mercury. Through college, she delivered the paper every day of the year between midnight and 6am. Despite her financial burden, as an undergraduate, she found the time to volunteer with a number of community organizations that offer help to the Vietnamese population. She has assisted in programs such as the AIDS walk and peer mentoring. Hong is also a recipient of a Bill and Melinda Gates Millennium Scholarship, the first ever given to a student at San Jose State. She received two New Leader Scholarships.

**VIRGINIA (Jenna) LEE** See 2011 entry (awarded a second New Leader Scholarship)

**DANIEL PAREDES**, See 2008 entry (awarded a second New Leader Scholarship)

**CARLOS MACIAS** graduated with a degree in Chicano Studies from U.C., Berkeley and a Master's Degree in American Studies from Purdue University. He immigrated to the United States from Mexico in 1992 with his parents and nine siblings. Carlos is the first to go to college in his family. Having made a previous unsuccessful attempt at carrying both a full-time academic load and a full time job, he returned to Berkeley, obtaining an outstanding academic record. As a re-entry student, knowing the support he lacked, Carlos became a leader in creating access for others facing similar challenges. He is a co-founder of Transfer Collectiva at Berkeley and worked with high school students in East Oakland, describing his own challenges in the hope of encouraging their application to college. In 2007 he attended the IRT Program in Massachusetts to help him prepare for entry into a doctoral program. While studying for graduate entry exams, he worked with hi-risk high school students at a health center in Hayward.

**FELICIA MOORE-JORDAN** graduated from law school at U.C., Hastings. She received her B.S. in Political Science from U.C., Berkeley in 2004. Independent since age 18, Felicia has continued to engage in community outreach despite her enormous financial burdens. While an undergraduate, she devoted herself to fighting racism on campus. Following her graduation, she worked on the staff of Supervisor Keith Carson in Alameda, honing her experience in public interest law. Having a brother who was incarcerated and being adopted as a young child, have led to a profound commitment to social justice with particular emphasis on helping those in the criminal justice system successfully re-enter society. While at Hastings, she was the Director of Development for the Hastings Public Interest Law Foundation and on the Board of Hastings's Race and Poverty Law Journal. Following her graduation, Felicia worked as a Program Associate on the staff of the Berkeley Center for Criminal Justice and is the first alumna of the New Leader Scholarship to become a Board member. Currently, Felicia is working as Director of Reentry Services for the Associated Community Action Program (ACAP). She has received four New Leader Scholarships.

**MARTHA LORENA ROCHA** has a BA from U.C., Berkeley with a double major in Sociology and Spanish. She, her parents and siblings, emigrated from Mexico in 2002, hoping to find greater job opportunities here. While her parents' work situation is an improvement over what it was in Mexico, they still have had limited opportunity for advancement and currently work as field hands in Watsonville. Martha's desire to be the first in her family with a college education was shaped by the example of her parents' moral integrity and courage. A second source of her ambition to teach and provide counseling to educationally disadvantaged students, has come from her volunteer work with the EOP and Migrant Program at UC, Berkeley. A McNair scholar, Martha studied at Carlos III University in Madrid during fall, 2008. She is planning to go on for graduate work in Education and is studying to take the CBEST examination.

**CHRISTYNA SERRANO**, (See 2012 entry, awarded a sixth New Leader Scholarship)

**SAMORN SELIM**, See 2008 entry (awarded a fourth New Leader Scholarship)

**AREZO YAZD**, See 2008 entry (awarded a fifth New Leader Scholarship)