



NEW LEADER SCHOLARS BIOS 2001

Aishah Bashir, 29, graduated from UC Berkeley with an inter-disciplinary degree in Anthropology, African-American Studies, and Public Health. She is the single mother of two young children who hopes to combine her interest in traditional African healing with her work in dance to open a womens' center that will offer health services to the African-American Community.

Melissa Freeman, 32, graduated from UC Berkeley majoring in Rhetoric. She recently spent a semester in Washington, D.C. on scholarship, interning at the World Bank on a project to develop Internet access in rural areas of developing countries. Melissa plans a career in law to provide legal support to low income populations.

Armando Lara, 23, graduated from San Jose State University with a major in child and adolescent development. He is currently in graduate school at San Jose State in the teaching credential program. Shaped by his own experience as an adolescent, emigrating from Mexico, he continues to teach youngsters in "high needs" schools in addition to his academic pursuits.

Cristina Mora, 22, is a senior at UC Berkeley, majoring in Sociology and minoring in Public Policy. Prior to leaving for her final semester of study abroad in Cuba, she applied to several doctoral programs in Sociology. Her goal is to become an "activist" professor of sociology. As a McNair Scholar this summer, she was able to complete her research on child sexual abuse in Latino communities. Cristina plans to submit the results for publication.

Andrea Vargas-Mendoza, 22, graduated from UC Berkeley this Spring with a major in Rhetoric. She is a second generation Latina who has already started the process of giving back to her community through Student Success Workshops she designed and conducted in her high school in Castro Valley. She plans to launch her Social Healing Project in three Bay Area high schools and create a website which will link her workshops to additional community resources.