

SHARE YOUR STORY



Community Action Month



"Go somewhere, explore beyond what you know. Go somewhere where you can start new and pursue an education."

- Luisana Martinez

LUISANA'S STORY

Luisana was about 14 years old when she was first introduced to CSET's Ivanhoe Junior Leadership program. She described it as a wonderful experience for Ivanhoe youth, where she grew up among negative influences and constant gang activity. As a Junior Leader, Luisana was asked to write and present on the meaning of Cinco de Mayo, explaining the history and meaning behind the holiday. "I'm doing something positive," she remarked and credits the experience in forming her desire to serve her community.

Since her time with CSET, Luisana went on to serve eight years in the army and is now finishing her degree at CSU Fresno. Luisana continues to actively serve her community, using the skills she gained in CSET's Junior Leadership program. As president of Fresno State's veteran's fraternity for two years, Luisana assisted in creating a hygiene drive for homeless veterans. Luisana appreciates having a way to give to those who have served in the military like herself.