

Lizeth Lopez Vazquez

Alpha Pi Epsilon

Southwestern College

Position           SOUTHEAST VICE PRESIDENT

My name is Lizeth Lopez Vazquez. I am currently majoring in Biochemistry and Cell Biology at Southwestern College in Chula Vista, California, and I am a candidate running for the position of Southeast District Vice-President.

Let me begin by telling you that I am an immigrant. I lived 17 years in Tijuana, Mexico, but the desire of my mother, who has been the strongest example of leadership in my life, to provide a better future for her children brought me to the United States. Since the first day I came here I had to face many challenges, one of them being the language barrier I had to overcome. Almost three years ago, this obstacle, reinforced by preconceived notions that students like me do not perform at the level of American students, led to the conclusion by my high school Assistant Principal that I would not graduate with my class. The support of my family combined with my hard work turned that obstacle into a precious experience that helped me to discover my true character and taught me to never abandon my dreams and to embrace challenges.

From my mother, I have learned to be a compassionate, supportive, and empathetic leader that leads by example and knows how to work as both part of a team and as a team leader who makes certain every member has their voice heard. I know that challenges are to be faced with gracious initiative and creativity. Not only thinking of the outcomes but also in excelling every day. My passion for helping others to achieve their goals has been my drive to volunteer and seek out leadership roles in my college community.

In 2017, I was elected as the Honors in Action Coordinator at my chapter where I had the opportunity to lead the undergraduate research on the Refugee Crisis. Innovativeness and the desire to make a positive contribution to the cause, I was able to lead a team to organize an informative awareness campaign on World Refugee Day on campus and recruit hundreds of college students, faculty members, and members of the community in Tijuana-San Diego to sign the UN Refugee Agency petition #WithRefugees whose goal was to ask governments around the world to support refugees by providing housing, education, and work skills. In addition, I was able to organize a successful donation drive in which the Southwestern College main campus and satellite campuses participated by demonstrating genuine interest in this global issue. Throughout this project, I established contacts with several organizations and became an active volunteer at one of them where besides all the financial challenges and lack of volunteers, they were committed to provide a space for refugees, immigrants, and local people in need. This helped me to realize the need that this world has for servant leaders.

I am running for Southeast District Vice-President because I believe in the mission of Phi Theta Kappa. If elected for Southeast District Vice-President, I will be involved in all activities to increase the participation of the membership at its community college chapter, the district, the region, and the international level. As an officer that reached the Five-Star level, I conducted a workshop every month to assist members of my chapter to reach this recognition and get involved with the chapter and campus community. I will promote collaboration between the chapters, encourage the attainment of the Five-star level for members and their chapters, and do my best to create a solid support system between them. I am confident that my past experiences have prepared me to serve the Nevada/California region as Southeast Vice-President and that my background will help me to create meaningful relationships with the membership. Finally, I am a person of action who will prove her full potential if given the opportunity to serve as Southeast District Vice-President. Thank you for your consideration.