

Samantha Arce – ASF Personal Statement

My name is Samantha Arce, and I am a second year from Oakes College majoring in Biology. I've been involved in the Filipino Student Association since I was a participant in A Step Forward 13. ASF 13 actually solidified my decision in coming to UC Santa Cruz because it showed me that I can have a community and family away from home. When I came to UCSC, I became involved in FSA. During my first year, I was a KAMP member in PYT, an ASF 14 volunteer, and an active community member. I enjoyed my first year so much that I decided to do more. This year, I am one of the three KAMP heads in Jose Rizal, the ASF 15 intern, and an active community member. To me, FSA is a community that everyone can feel like they belong to. The members of FSA are accepting of all people from different backgrounds. FSA is also like a family. People in FSA have your back. They will support you and help you in times of need. FSA is a family away from home.

I am applying for the position of A Step Forward 16 Coordinator because I enjoyed being a participant, volunteer, and intern. ASF was one of the main reasons why I came to UCSC because it showed what this school can offer me, both socially and academically. It also showed me how important higher education, especially for students of color. Students of color don't always have the opportunity to achieve higher education due to so many obstacles, but if the opportunity is there, they should grab it. I want to show the participants that they can have all these things, even if it's not here at UC Santa Cruz.

If elected, my goals would include altering the itinerary a little bit. I would like to include more dialogue or discussion about our history and culture since many of us don't know a lot about it. I would also like to extend the time allotted for the tour, so that the participants would be able to see more of the school the tour guides don't have to rush them. I feel that this would benefit the participants and volunteers because many of us don't know that much about our culture and history. We don't know where we came from, what our country and ancestors have been through. I feel that having discussion about our history will help us better understand ourselves.

I learned many of my leadership skills from high school and ASF 15. In high school, I was involved in many organizations. I was involved in Student Leadership, Link Crew, Yearbook, and church. In these organizations, I've learned how to lead a group of people, work with others, plan events, network with other groups, stay organized, solve problems, and become more outgoing. As the ASF 15 intern, I've learned the same skills and more. I also learned how to network with UC employees and other on-campus organizations, fill out necessary forms, facilitate meetings, and speak in front of large groups.