## #NISTS2019 CONFERENCE

#### **WORKING TOGETHER TO SIMPLIFY TRANSFER**

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#### Simplifying Transfer via Starting Point Mentorship Program

Special Populations, Partnerships & Collaboration

The Starting Point Mentorship Program (SPMP) at UC Berkeley was created to simplify the transfer process for non-traditional student populations. The program is driven by a cohort of current UC Berkeley transfer student mentors. Our program forms a network of support to make the transferring process smoother and to empower students to pursue higher education. We hope to inspire you to implement a mentorship program at your home institution to increase access for non-traditional students

Steven Nguyen, Academic Counselor, University of California, Berkeley Andrew Henry, Academic Counselor, University of California, Berkeley Lorena Valdez, Director, Transfer Student Center, University of California, Berkeley

## Simplifying Transfer via Starting Point Mentorship Program

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#### **Agenda**

- Higher Education in California
- Transfers at Cal
- Overview of Centers for Educational Equity and Excellence (CE3)
- History of Starting Point Mentorship Program (SPMP)
- SPMP Model
- Strength/ Challenges/ Outcomes
- Tips
- Q & A Session



#### **Higher Education in California**









# Transfer Student Demographics

Total Number of Applications: 19,231

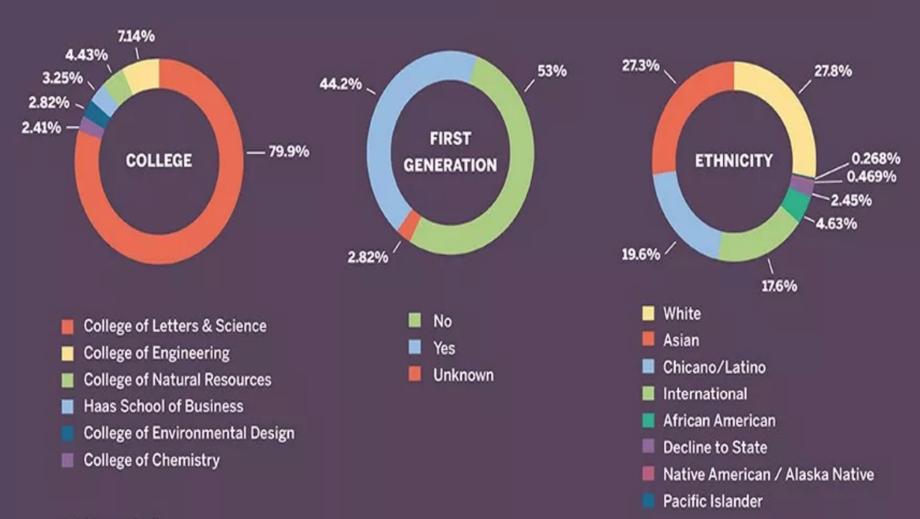
Total Admitted: 4,503

Range of G.P.A: 3.48 – 4.00

|          | Age     |        |  |
|----------|---------|--------|--|
| Youngest | Average | Oldest |  |
| 16       | 23      | 71     |  |
|          |         |        |  |



## DEMOGRAPHICS of the TRANSFER CLASS OF 2020



Ariel Lung / Staff Source: CalAnswers



## Transition, Transform, Transcend,

Centers for Educational Equity and Excellence

- Berkeley Hope Scholars
- Berkeley Underground Scholars
- Cal Nerds
- Cal Veteran Services Center
- Educational Opportunity Program (EOP)
- George Miller Scholars Program
- McNair Scholars Program
- Professional Development Program (PDP)
- POSSE
- Re-Entry Student Program
- Student Parent Center (SPC)
- Student Support Services (SSS)
- Transfer Student Center
- Undocumented Student Program (USP)
- UC Berkeley Food Pantry and Basic Needs Security

Over 13,000 students are part of one or more units of our community



# History of Starting Point Mentorship Program (SPMP)

SPMP was founded by Kathleen Jones West, a first generation college student, Social Welfare major, who was working on a community focused research project. Her intention was to open pathways and create greater access to the university for nontraditional students. Her goal was to establish mentoring as a means to simplify the transfer process for nontraditional students.





### **SPMP Model**





## **SPMP Program Model**

- Academic credit bearing (pass/not pass)
  - − 1 − 2 units of service learning academic credit
  - Assignments and other requirements
- Training Seminar Course is mandatory.
- Two to Five hours of mentoring per week on average.
- Participation in events/programming, workshops, community college visits, and yield.



## **SPMP Program Model**

#### Partnerships

- Workshops that focus on preparing mentees for the application process and one-on-one reviews of personal insight question with an admissions advisor
- Guest speakers from various colleges and campus resources serve as presenters in the seminar
- Community college counselors



#### **SPMP Program Info**

- SPMP serves students enrolled at community colleges throughout California
- In 2018-2019, 140 UC
  Berkeley student mentors and
  over 750 California
  community college mentees
  enrolled
- The program budget is roughly \$15,000 annually







#### **Mentors**





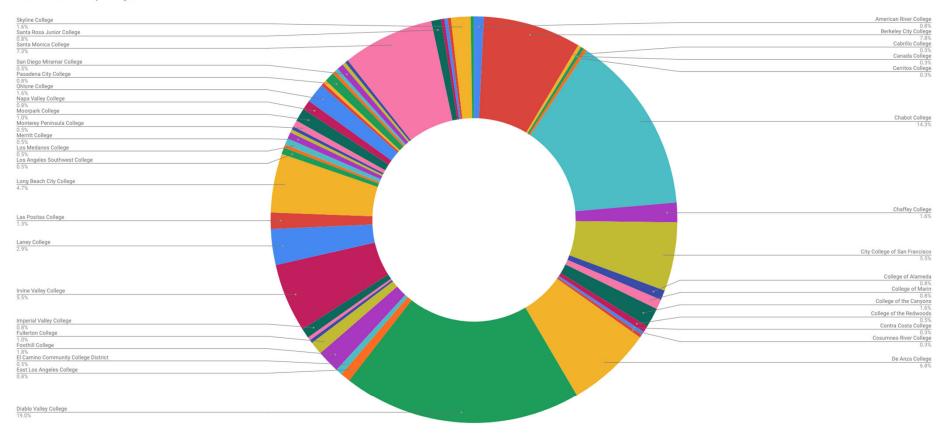
#### **Mentees**





#### **Program Data**

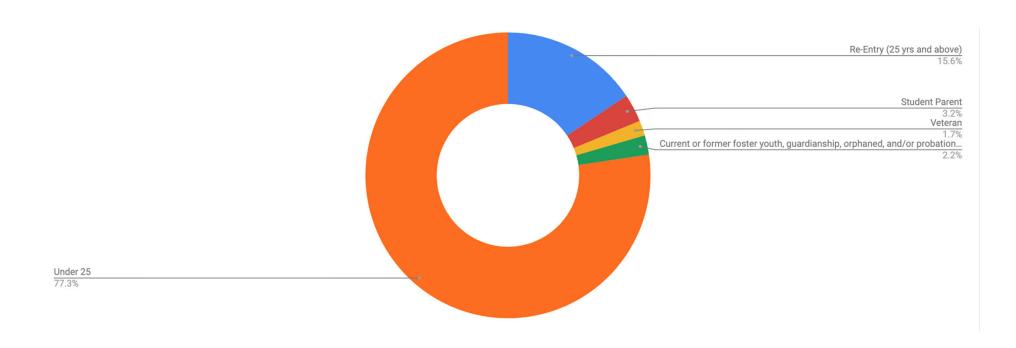
#### Count of Community Colleges Served:







#### **Program Data**





#### **Challenges**





#### **Outcomes**

- Exposure to the four-year university
- A recognized enrichment program for the UC Application
- Mentees can make more informed and confident decisions
- Simplify the admissions selection and eligibility process
- Mentees return as Mentors
- Students forge lasting relationships





#### **Areas of Continued Growth**

- Specific yield events for SPMP mentees
- Incorporating Technology into the program
- Tracking data strengthen relations with admissions to collect data
- Local grants (technology grants at Berkeley to benefit students) - expand resources
   - expand opportunities





# Tips on starting a Mentorship Program on your Campus

- Starting with your local feeder college!
- Find ways both institutions can collaborate/fund a similar type of mentorship program
- Create transfer-allies on campus
- Identified Institutional Support/Structure
- Allow for student innovation
- Grants APPLY, APPLY, APPLY







University of California, Berkeley



#### **Questions?**











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## Thank You

## Connect With Us







### @StartingPointMP

www.transfers.berkeley.edu/startingpoint

