

## Student Spotlight on Marcela Cardenas

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Marcela Cardenas is a first generation American, first generation college student, and currently finishing her first year at Feather River College. Graduating from Portola High School in 2016, Marcela wanted to stay in her hometown area. Like many, she came to FRC to complete her lower division general education at the community college level. No stranger to academic success, Marcela was a recipient of a Golden State Seal Merit Diploma in high school and has continued her successful studies at the college level. She is currently considering furthering her education towards becoming a dental hygienist. Originally shown the opportunities of dental work through her a job shadow during her senior year, Marcela was offered a part-time job at the local dental clinic after high school. After Feather River, Marcela plans to transfer to a college that offers a dental hygiene program; she is presently looking at TMCC. When asked who inspires her, Marcela said, “my mom inspires me because I see how hard of a worker she is. Every day she goes to work, she doesn’t take days off and she always encourages me to do my best.”



Other than being a student and having a part-time job, Marcela spends her free time reading, playing video games, solving puzzles and volunteering. Marcela’s volunteer work in the community is something she is proud of, especially the Portola’s Community Supper

that she has been volunteering at since middle school. “I just do it because I like to give back to my community in one way or another.” Marcela is also active in a youth group. One of her favorite courses so far at FRC has been anatomy with instructor Michelle J Petroelje. “I think professor Petroelje is a great professor. She’s really nice and understanding and she makes the course really enjoyable.” Being a successful student, Marcela shared what she attributes her success to. “For me, it’s about not ever giving up –even if I struggle, I ask questions and work through the problem.” When asked to give advice to incoming freshman, Marcela says, “Always look for resources... do not be afraid to go look or ask for help. For example, the TRIO office has helped me greatly, especially with academic advising. Just don’t be afraid to ask for help.” Marcela would like to come back to her



hometown of Portola when she finishes her education as a dental hygienist but she is open to other possibilities. “I like my community and being part of it, but who knows where life will take me.” Currently Marcela spends her summers working for Walton’s Grizzly Summer Camp. She has been working at the children’s camp since

she was a freshman in high school and began as a dining room supervisor. “It’s a great position... I make sure everything is out in the dining room. I am responsible for three campers who assist me with set up. If they mess up, it’s my fault so it helps me develop leadership skills.” Recently Marcela received the TRIO scholarship to assist her in furthering her education.