

CalWORKS

Gandhy Manzanarez Jimenez

Submitted by Chelsea Lancaster

Gandhy Manzanarez Jimenez is an immigrant, mother to three beautiful girls, first-generation college student, and intern for the SBCC Promise program. According to Gandhy, their lives were forever changed when her husband was targeted and deported two years ago, leaving them alone to navigate a new and terrifying reality. This new reality strengthened her resolve to make a better life for her girls through education and we were privileged to have her join our first SPARC cohort since the pandemic began. We were also able to secure Gandhy an internship with the SBCC Promise through the CalWORKs Work Study program, where she has effectively used her first-gen student experience to help students navigate their way through SBCC. Gandhy will be graduating with a total of four Associated degrees in Liberal Arts: Arts and Humanities/ Social and Behavioral Sciences, Ethnic Studies, Psychology, and Sociology and has been accepted to CSUCI for her Bachelor's Degree. She says she hopes to use her experiences to help others like her both navigate education and fix the broken systems currently in place. In Gandhy's words: "I stand here to be an advocate and share that your story may not be perfect, but with resilience, hope, love, and support you can do it too." Adelante, Gandhy!