



YNS Success Story

As a 17 year old senior at Fillmore High School, Luis Laureano enrolled in PathPoint's Youth Networked Services on November 8, 2007. Luis comes from a family of six, with his older sisters also living in the Fillmore/Santa Paula area. Luis' parents emigrated from Mexico. Upon enrollment into the YNS program, Luis only had a Social Security card and Employment Authorization card from the Department of Justice that were valid for work only. Luis already applied for US citizenship, but it had not yet cleared through the Department of Homeland Security.

When an academic and career advisor initially interviewed Luis, it was Luis' intent to complete his high school education at Fillmore and pursue college to become an engineer. However, due to the work-only status of his Social Security Card, Luis experienced trouble getting financial aid. Fortunately Luis received his Certificate of Citizenship, which enabled him and his advisor to go to the Social Security Administration to change the status of his card. Additionally, Luis obtained his California Drivers License with the assistance of his family.

Luis participated in school sports at Fillmore High, playing soccer. Because of Luis' accomplishments on and off the field, he was selected for the Ventura County Star's All Athlete/Academic team, making the 2008 All Tri-Valley League boys' soccer second team, and also named Fillmore's best all around team player for the 2007-08 school year. Luis completed his academic career at Fillmore High with a 3.65 GPA, and a SAT score of 1270.

During his senior year, Luis researched several colleges, including Chico State, Cal State Northridge and Cal State Long Beach. Luis finally decided to focus on Cal State Long Beach because he has a cousin who was living in Long Beach and attending the school. Luis is scheduled to start his first term in September of 2008. He also changed his educational goal from being an engineer to becoming a math teacher.

During his time with PathPoint, Luis participated in PathPoint's Youth Council, completed the Work Readiness Workshop, received incentives for his grades, achieved his California Driver's License and earned his high school diploma. PathPoint intends to assist Luis with his transition to Cal State Long Beach by helping with books and school supplies .

Connecting people, purpose, and communities since 1964, the mission of PathPoint is to provide comprehensive training and support services that empower people with disabilities or disadvantages to live and work as valued members of our communities. We serve more than 2,340 people within San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura, Kern and Los Angeles counties. To learn more please visit www.pathpoint.org or email info@pathpoint.org
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