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# EAST LOS ANGELES COLLEGE

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## **ELAC Student Jacqueline Vela to Intern at Washington D.C for Congresswoman Nanette Diaz Barragán for Hilda Solis Internship Program**

MONTEREY PARK -- East Los Angeles College has proudly announced its decision to send Jacqueline Vela to Washington D.C. for the Hilda Solis Internship program this summer. This internship has awarded five students the opportunity to work in the nation's capital directly with members of the House of Representatives. "Students will be housed at the George Washington University dormitories and room and board, round-trip airfare to Washington D.C., and a stipend will be provided by our foundation", stated Paul De La Cerda, Dean and ELAC Foundation Executive Director.

Jacqueline is a double-major in History and Literature. Jacqueline's experiences have led her to become a dedicated ally for social justice issues along with an activist for supporting at-risk and disenfranchised communities. "I hope to expand my knowledge on policy and legislation in order to advocate for Chicano rights", said Vela.

Jacqueline will work for U.S. Rep. Nanette Diaz Barragán, who represents California's 44th Congressional District. Rep. Barragán is a leader of immigrants' rights and a staunch defender of a clean environment. "Like Jacqueline, years ago I came to Washington D.C. to get my start in public service. I am thrilled to host young leaders, like those in ELAC, and offer the opportunity to experience the legislative process first-hand," said Rep. Barragán.

The Hilda Solis Internship Program is a great opportunity for students interested in pursuing a career in government service and gives them a rare look inside the workings of our legislative, political and administrative systems. Students will gain the skills tracking and researching bills, attending committee hearings and briefings, handling constituent inquiries, and providing legislative support. "We believe it is necessary to cultivate the potential of our future leaders and through programs such as the Hilda Solis Internship program, this is possible", said Marvin Martinez, President of East Los Angeles College.

Jackie Vela is a first-generation student currently attending East Los Angeles College studying to complete her double-major in history and literature. Upon returning from Washington, D.C., she plans to transfer to a four-year university.

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*East Los Angeles College empowers students to achieve their educational goals, to expand their individual potential, and to successfully pursue their aspirations for a better future for themselves, their community and the world.*

The ELAC Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Federal Tax ID#33-0034221