



ILP Newsletter

STAFF HIGHLIGHT: MAIDA MEDRANO

By Paul S., WCC Youth Advocate

I got to interview one of the new Education and Career Coaches at ILP. Her name is Maida Medrano, she was born in Mexico and raised in Oakland. She graduated from college in 2020. Maida found ILP on Indeed, a job seeking website, and liked how the job description sounded. She wanted to represent people who didn't get enough representation. Working at ILP, Maida knew she could support foster and probation youth. Both of these groups aren't treated very well by people or the system they are in.



As an education and career coach, Maida helps youth create goals around education and employment. While also holding a safe space for youth to feel comfortable with sharing their goals. No matter how big or small the goal is, Maida can work with them to accomplish it. What Maida likes about her job is that it pushes her to grow. She isn't familiar with all the ins and outs of the foster care system, but her job at ILP helps her gain new knowledge to help youth in the system. Maida's aspirations for ILP is to continue holding a safe space where youth can relax and have fun.



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Want to learn about workshops? See page 2 for more information.
- The ILP Scholarship is now open! See how to apply on page 2.
- Check out page 2 to see what our boutique offers!
- See page 2 for what the education team has been focusing on.
- Read about the Youth Council on pages 3 and 4.
- See what incentives you can receive for participating in ILP services on page 5!
- See page 6 for ILP staff contact information.

ILP Workshops

For information about ILP workshops, check the [ILP website](#) or call our office. See page 5 for website information and page 6 for ILP contact information. Sign up for upcoming workshops today!



ILP Scholarship

The scholarship application is available on our website at www.alamedacountyilp.org/services/education/. If you need help applying or have questions, contact us at 510-667-7696.



Free Boutique

The boutique is at the ILP office! There are items like sweaters and t-shirts for young men and women, and lots of toys for kids. For more information, contact us at 510-667-7696.



EDUCATION SPOTLIGHT

By Lakota BC., WCC Youth Advocate



I recently had the pleasure of interviewing Maida Medrano, the Education and Career Coach at ILP, about what the current focus is surrounding education, what resources and workshops are available, and the general advice for foster youth who are considering post-secondary education. Maida was excited to share that the Education department was just wrapping up their Job Readiness workshop series that provided space for youth to work on resumes, go over work guidelines, and how to prepare for a successful interview. She also mentioned that there are many workshops TAY youth can attend. One of those workshop series focused on the steps to completing the ILP scholarship application. Besides the workshops, there are many resources TAY youth can take advantage of: book money, scholarships, career counseling, tutoring, and more. Maida made it clear to mention that the Education team is here for those who need guidance in post-secondary education. She also mentioned that foster

youth face difficulties in accessing post-secondary education and that there are common obstacles in the way, such as housing insecurity, food access, and employment.



[Click here for the ILP Scholarship Application.](#)
[Deadline is June 6, 2022.](#)

I asked if there was any general advice she could give to foster youth considering education after high school, and she provided a great answer. She said it's common for youth to be told college is the only pathway to success, but that isn't true. There are many options youth can take in post-secondary education. It's a matter of breaking down what success looks like for each individual youth. This may include going to a four-year college, getting an AA degree, getting a certificate, and/or going to a trade school such as Carrington or Muller. She emphasized that college doesn't have to be a scary thing; that it is okay to see college as a time of your life where you learned something and had the opportunity to broaden your knowledge.

Towards the end of our conversation, Maida expressed she has one hope for the TAY community. She hopes she can do her part in creating a post-secondary access pipeline, foster culture, and allow opportunities for youth to gain early exposure to post-secondary education. It's hard for youth who are a part of the system to focus on school while there are other pressing issues such as housing and employment. By researching common problems and tackling these barriers, she hopes for a better future.

Is Maida your coach? Give her a call or email her to catch up and tell her about your educational needs!

510-410-6170

mmedrano@beyondmancipation.org

YOUTH COUNCIL

By Jaden B., WCC Youth Advocate

I had the opportunity to interview some of my fellow advocates about the ILP Youth Council and their thoughts and feelings about it. You'll hear from three of the advocates: Paul Smith (PS), Greyson Wright (GW), and James Hernandez (JH). Youth (TAY) providers create resources or fix programs that can help youth based on their feedback.



JB: Can you share a little about yourself and your backstory?

PS: My name is Paul Smith, I'm 21 and I entered care at 14. I always took part in ILP and enjoyed the workshops and the staff who worked there. Since then, I've always wanted to do what they did, and I wanted to help youth I worked with and also future youth.

GW: I'm Greyson Wright, also 21. I'm currently pursuing a degree in Sociology so I can become a social worker. I got into advocacy work because I helped advocate a lot for other youth who maybe didn't speak up or had their voices unheard at the placements I was at. I entered care at 15 for many different reasons. I've been in many different placements and had so many different experiences to learn and grow from. ILP definitely helped me. They had a great poetry course I still remember and I learned to create coping mechanisms and genuine connections from taking part in ILP.

JH: My name is James Hernandez, I'm also 21. I went into foster care in Alameda County at 14. I didn't partake in reunification. I lived with my foster parents for a while. I became a Non-Minor Dependent (NMD) while living there and continued to live there as an NMD. Recently I moved in with some friends and got our own place. I work full time at the Youth Advocate Program (YAP). Also, I'm working on my General Education requirements for school and focusing on majoring in Marine Biology. I enjoy outdoor activities such as soccer and skating. I also have a cute bunny named Noodle.

JB: What inspired you to join the Youth Council?

PS: ILP is a great program. They are ready to help make change in areas that are needed and work with youth to meet their needs. Working at WestCoast Children's Clinic, I can take my gained knowledge and apply it to the Youth Council. Also, being on the Youth Council, I can take the knowledge I gain from there and apply it to my work at WestCoast Children's Clinic.

GW: I've always advocated for many people and youth in the placements I was at. I used to work at a place where youth really trusted me to be able to advocate for their needs. My job now is focused around advocacy, I'm a Youth Advocate after all. I thought it'd be a great opportunity to voice changes and hear concerns from current and other youth. It's a great way to create lasting change.

JH: I have always tried my best to support people. I used to work at a daycare and a family resource center so it felt natural to transition to another provider role because I've done so much of that in the past. What inspires me is seeing other people grow and be better than they were the day before. Really getting to see the growth in an individual is what inspired me to join.

JB: What do you like about the Youth Council?/What is your favorite thing about the Youth Council?

PS: I like that it builds community and gives a support system to youth. You're able to learn from it and also take what you already know to help others. We also get to help build events and workshops for youth.

GW: It's a great opportunity to hone personal skills and also provide feedback to providers and uplift the youth's voice. Also, to enact changes in a more direct manner which is cool and rewarding.

JH: I agree with my fellow advocates. It's an opportunity for youth that have experience with ILP to have more of a voice. We get to work with Beyond Emancipation (B:E) Staff on policy change and similar matters. It's also great because actual youth get to be involved and not just us Youth Advocates who might've already emancipated from the system.

YOUTH COUNCIL CONTINUED

By Jaden B., WCC Youth Advocate

JB: What kind of an impact has the council had on you?

PS: Just being able to make great connections and having a great community. Being able to make a big impact and be on the B:E panel to say how we feel as foster youth and former foster youth to the people who are higher up in the system.

GW: It definitely builds confidence and connections. We get to create more of an impact in the system. Also, our Youth Council time together is nice. The curriculum and first couple weeks provided many great skills. We are able to take more of a leadership role and do things like creating events and creating more impacting change. It makes people feel like their voices are being heard and considered.

JH: I definitely agree it builds a sense of community. We have a bigger bridge with ILP, which is nice. I like working with them. I really enjoy working alongside my fellow advocates and all the others involved. It really has an amazing sense of community.

JB: What topics are covered in council meetings?

GW: All types of things are covered. A lot is focused on personal development. We also brainstorm different ways to improve different services in the system. We just finished reviewing some handouts. One was an assessment trying to find ways to be more inclusive and support youth more. In the first few weeks there's a lot of trainings on personal skills, how to be a good facilitator and continue on to leadership, which is the main topic that's focused on.

JB: What is a council project/goal that you look forward to working on?

JH: We started event planning for a summer community event for ILP. We discussed the theme of the event. We talked about having young entrepreneurs like one of our fellow advocates, Donnie Brown, create stands and sell their goods and maybe talk to youth about how they did it. We also talked about potentially recruiting new youth for the Youth Council so more youth can get involved.

JB: What makes the Youth Council an important group to have for foster and probation youth?/What impact could it have on the TAY community long-term?

PS: It provides a space where youth can share their voices and experiences to help Transition Age Youth (TAY) providers create resources or fix programs that can help youth based on their feedback.

JB: What are your hopes and aspirations for the Youth Council?

PS: My hope is that it becomes bigger and more youth become involved, and it becomes a place where tons of youth can come and create experiences and workshops.

JB: What are some of the main reasons why someone should join the council?

JH: It's an opportunity for youth who have experience with systems that don't work and don't support them to improve upon those systems and work alongside people who create these systems. Additionally, it's an opportunity to talk to higher ups and voice their direct concerns. Also, being able to create trainings, direct change and build a sense of community.

JB: Is there any other information you would like to share about the council?

GW: It's just a great opportunity for youth to get more skills and to build new skills while advocating for betterment of services for other youth.

Interested in joining the Youth Council?
Contact Zimbabwe Davies at:

510-414-4434

zdavies@beyondemancipation.org



WHAT ILP OFFERS

Alameda County ILP supports youth in education, employment, health and wellness, permanent connections, housing, and money management. These topics are covered in ILP workshops which youth can earn \$25 for each session they attend. Youth can also receive one-on-one coaching with an ILP coach to assist them with creating and accomplishing individual goals!

REGISTER FOR ILP SERVICES

Complete a [Request For Service \(RFS\)](#) form with a Worker of the Day (WOD) over the phone. The WOD or an ILP coach will call/email you regarding your eligibility. It takes around 1-2 days to process your RFS form. Once contacted, you will virtually meet with an ILP Coach to discuss your needs, interests, and goals. Your coach will assist you with registering for workshops, activities, and any services that appeal to you!

INCENTIVES

The following items are what ILP eligible youth may be able to receive by participating in ILP services:

- * ILP Workshops
- * Education Program
- * ACLSA
- * Chromebooks
- * School Stipend
- * Education Testing
- * ILP Scholarship
- * Prom/Senior Portraits
- * Book Money
- * California ID Waiver
- * Driver's Training
- * Gas Reimbursements
- * Security Deposit
- * Baby Stipend



For more information, contact the
ILP office:

info@alamedacountyilp.org
(510) 667-7696



VIRTUAL SERVICES

Do you want to connect with your ILP coach, but you want to stay safe from Covid-19? We've got you covered! You can virtually meet with your ILP coach. You can also schedule a socially distant, in-person meeting with your coach. To keep you and your coach safe, youth and staff are expected to wear a mask during in-person meetings. Call the ILP office for your coach's phone number and email. See page 6 for the ILP office contact information. We hope to see you soon!

DISTANCE LEARNING

Check out the two types of virtual learning that ILP is offering! ILP has live workshops through zoom that include guest speakers and activities that you can do at home. ILP's Distance Learning program is a self-paced module that has engaging topics like Mental Wellness and Entrepreneurial Exploration. ILP staff can assist you with using the Distance Learning website, and with getting the zoom information for live workshops!

STAY CONNECTED

Do you want to make sure that you don't miss any ILP workshops, activities, or virtual events? Want to keep up with the latest services, resources, and news for transitional aged youth? Follow ILP on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter! See page 1 for ILP's social media links.

Are you not on social media? Visit the ILP website for the latest updates on workshops, events, and other important information regarding the program.

www.alamedacountyilp.org/

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Thank you for supporting ILP!

