## American Ethnic Studies Lilia DonJuan Submitted by Melinda Gándara

It is with great pleasure that the American Ethnic Studies Department honors Lilia DonJuan as our outstanding student in Ethnic Studies. Lilia served as our departmental tutor under the iPATH program in 2017. Over the years, Lilia has demonstrated unparalleled leadership within the department -- her dedication to her studies and our students reflects her commitment to fostering inclusivity and amplifying historically marginalized voices. Like many of our students who work and balance their academic studies, Lilia has had to navigate periods of financial insecurity, which has shaped her path. Most importantly, it also reflects the pressures and sacrifices that come with her commitment to complete her degree. Lilia will continue her coursework in ethnic studies at CalState East Bay come fall 2025. We admire Lilia for her resilience and perseverance.