

## CVEP Pathways to Success Alumni Feature



Anayeli Zavala grew up in Desert Hot Spring. She graduated from Desert Hot Springs High School and went on to College of the Desert where she earned an Associate's Degree in Liberal Arts with an emphasis in Social and Behavioral Sciences. Upon completing her studies at COD, Anayeli transferred to UCLA and earned her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology in 2012. In many ways, Anayeli feels she owes her education to the Coachella Valley. She received multiple scholarships from local organizations like CVEP's Pathways to Success scholarship program and the Desert Hot Springs Women's Club. For this reason, she felt a sense of responsibility to return to the Coachella Valley and serve her community.

Upon returning to the Valley, Anayeli worked for HealthCorps and managed health programming for a local high school. During this time, she also participated in CVEP's Health Career Connection summer internship program. As a policy intern, she created a policy database for a national comprehensive healthy school policy project in Washington D.C. She was then accepted as a fellow with the Women's Policy Institute and addressed environmental issues throughout Riverside County. In finding her passion for policy, she ran for City Council in Desert Hot Springs. She was elected to a four-year term and is looking forward to providing a health and education lens to the City's decision making process. In addition, she serves as a board member for the Desert Hot Springs Microloan Bank, which provides residents with small business loans. She is also an active member of the Scholarship Committee with the Desert Hot Springs Women's Club.

Anayeli has come full circle, and it is with great pleasure that she is now the College and Career Project Coordinator at CVEP. In her spare time, Anayeli loves cooking Pinterest recipes, dancing salsa and collecting workout DVD's.