



Cristal Salcido was born and raised in Indio, California. She graduated from La Quinta High School in 2011. During her years as LQHS, she was part of the Medical Health Academy; in her last year of the program, Cristal had the opportunity to intern with Dr. Milligan's Dermatology. She was also a member of the Leo Club and was a junior volunteer at Eisenhower Medical Center. Cristal received the Medical Health Academy scholarship, LQ Rotary Scholarship, and College of the Desert Alumni Association / CVEP Pathways to Success Scholarship coming out of high school.

Cristal received her Associates in Biology from College of the Desert in the Spring of 2014. During her time at COD, Cristal started the COD Alumni Scholarship Club— a club dedicated to enhance the COD experience for receipts by hosting social events, college trips, and networking opportunities. She was also part of the MESA program. Cristal was part of the Future Physician Leaders Program during the summer of 2011, 2012, and 2013. She also interned with CVEP PTS for three years. Cristal was awarded a renewal scholarship from the COD Alumni Association for her last two years at COD.

Cristal received her Bachelors in Chicano Studies from University of California, Riverside this past spring 2016. At UCR, Cristal was the Director of External Affairs for their Mini Medical School, Volunteer Coordinator for the HOSA Club, Spanish translator for the Riverside Free Clinic, and member of the Medical Scholars Program. She was also awarded a Health Career Connections internship summers 2014 and 2015, where she had the opportunity to work with the Desert Aids Project- Get Tested Coachella Valley campaign and the Regional Access Project Foundation. For the two years she spent at UCR, she was awarded a 2-year scholarship from the UCR Foundation.

Cristal is excited to have returned to the Coachella Valley- a promise she had made to herself at a young age. She is currently working for the Riverside County Latino Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services, as Program Support for their counseling center in Coachella. Soon, she will also be serving as a facilitator for their Strengthening Families program. Cristal plans to return to school to get her Masters in Public Health and Business Administration, and start her own nonprofit in the desert. Cristal's ultimate goal is to attend medical school to become a family physician. Cristal is passionate to serve the underserved populations of eastern Coachella Valley, and hopes to inspire a positive change in the health of her community.