

American Ethnic Studies - Chicano Studies

Estella Avila

Submitted by Melinda Gándara

It is with great pleasure that the American Ethnic Studies Department honors Estella Avila as the 2024-2025 outstanding student in Chicano Studies. Estella combines an infectious passion for art and history with a deep commitment to fostering a more inclusive understanding of the past. Estella's intellectual curiosity and drive are matched by her deep sense of empathy and commitment to social justice. She plans to continue her studies at UC Santa Barbara come fall 2026. We admire Estella for her perseverance and ability to overcome many difficult obstacles — the road has been challenging and she continues to stay on course and work towards her academic goals. We admire Estella for demonstrated academic achievements, leadership, and community service. She serves as an inspiration for all of us.