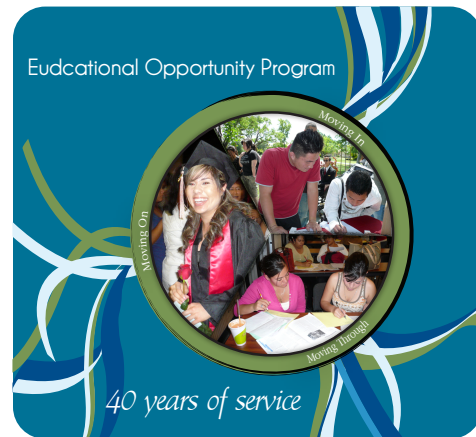


Telling Our EOP Stories

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Counselor Spotlight: Tony Garduque

by Christopher Collins

"Education is the most valuable opportunity anyone can have." These are the words of EOP counselor Tony Garduque, a man of true experience who has watched EOP grow from the ground up.

A native of Fresno's "Golden Westside," Tony graduated from Edison High School and pursued higher education at Fresno City College. Before earning his Associates Degree at Fresno City College, Tony entered the Vietnam War and completed a 13-month tour. "Going through that and having that kind of experience people say I'm lucky but I say I'm more than lucky; the war effort saved my life even though I almost lost it and it made me realize how precious life is" stated Tony.

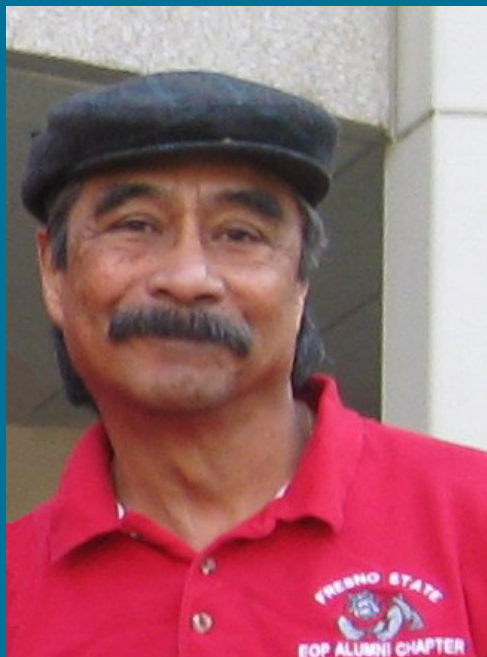
After his life altering experience in Vietnam and an Associates Degree, Tony then continued his education Fresno State where he received a bachelor's degree in Sociology. He eventually earned his master's degree in Social Work. Throughout his educational career at Fresno State, Tony was heavily involved on campus. He collaborated with other students who were also Vietnam Veterans leading protests against the Vietnam War. "I Realized that what as going on in Vietnam was a setup and what the government decided was that poor people and people who didn't have anything going for themselves were the first to be drafted," said Tony. He also put on civil rights programs on campus and was very involved as a student activist.

Tony also involved himself in other areas as well. As a student, he became a mentor for ex-convicts and had the opportunity to visit every prison in California. Tony mentored and taught inmates about education and important life skills. After graduating with his master's degree, Tony worked with a few other programs on campus before being placed in EOP as a counselor. He has been a proud member of the EOP family since then.

Tony's passion is to help his students succeed. When asked what piece of advice he would give to students, Tony stated, "You have to be driven first by a purpose and it has to have a personal value to you then understand what a university's intent is and what you can get out of it."

Outside of work, Tony has many hobbies and trades. He is a car fanatic and enjoys fixing cars. He also enjoys creating pieces of furniture out of wood and amazingly built his own house. Currently, Tony is raising and training horses.

Tony describes his time with EOP by saying, "I think that the mission and purpose of the program outlines my life; it helps those in need and provides a voice. I'm able to advocate for a lot of people who need it." Lastly, Tony greatly emphasized that his EOP experience has been the best thing next to his family.



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