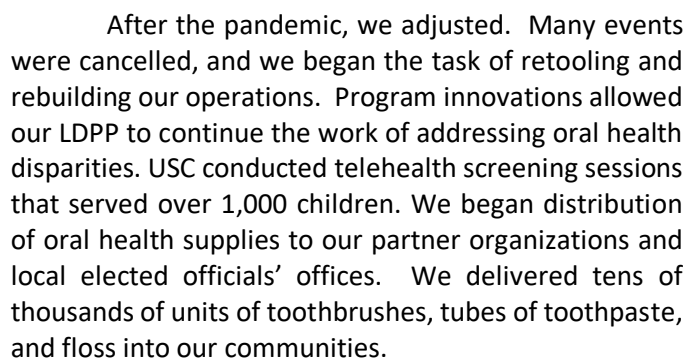


## ECHO-LDPP PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS: Dr. Munger

As we come to the program's close, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge our (considerable) collective achievements. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, ECHO achieved program deliverables and had great success providing oral health screenings, connecting families to dental homes and other resources, and delivering oral health education to thousands of children and youth, families, community members, dental and healthcare providers, agency staff, health and human service professionals, and students entering health and human service fields. Mobile care teams, consisting of dental providers, health educators, and students from multiple fields, were deployed to sites across Los Angeles County.

Before the COVID-19 shutdown in March 2020, we held 1,341 screening events, screening 24,833 children and youth ages 0-20 in community locations with an additional 12,254 by USC community programs. We also provided oral health education to approximately 9,000 people who had not received screening. This was amazing work, and we were poised for continued success in 2020.



## Una Palabra: Caring Communities Symposium, Day 1



We curated vital resource materials for families and posted on ECHO's website and Instagram. Our website has 126 resources listed across 14 categories, which are updated weekly. We expanded outreach to partner agencies and developed oral health education presentations. The Health Education Team provided education to over 1,900 children, youth, parents, and staff since June, and we have held three virtual conferences.

The interdisciplinary student training program moved to a virtual environment, and our Cohort 4 interns completed all training and fieldwork online. Assessment of the training program indicates statistically significant improvement for students in *Knowledge of Working with Families, Oral Health Knowledge, AIAN Community Knowledge, and Team Skills*.

One of our greatest accomplishments, which defies metrics or measurement, is our community -- the relationships that we have built that have enriched all of our lives and will continue with us past the close of ECHO. I want to thank each and every member of ECHO for the hard work and dedication that has made this program a success.

Warmest Regards,  
Dr. Munger



**The ECHO-LDPP Family Salutes the Cohort 4  
The Party Enamels**

With gratitude and caring hearts, we recognized Cohort 4 in a Culmination Ceremony on December 4, 2020, during the ECHO Symposium. Dean Vogel and Provost Gomez provided congratulations to students and acknowledged the important roles of Mrs. Ramos and the Field Faculty: Mrs. Christine Park, Mrs. Meredith Abbasi, Dr. Ellis, Dr. Kubalanza and Dr. Willis.

Mrs. Ramos demonstrated great leadership and skill in managing the Field Internship Program and all Student Assistants, as the program shifted operations in the COVID-19 environment. She facilitated the development of a caring community of practice that promoted growth and relationships. Field Faculty

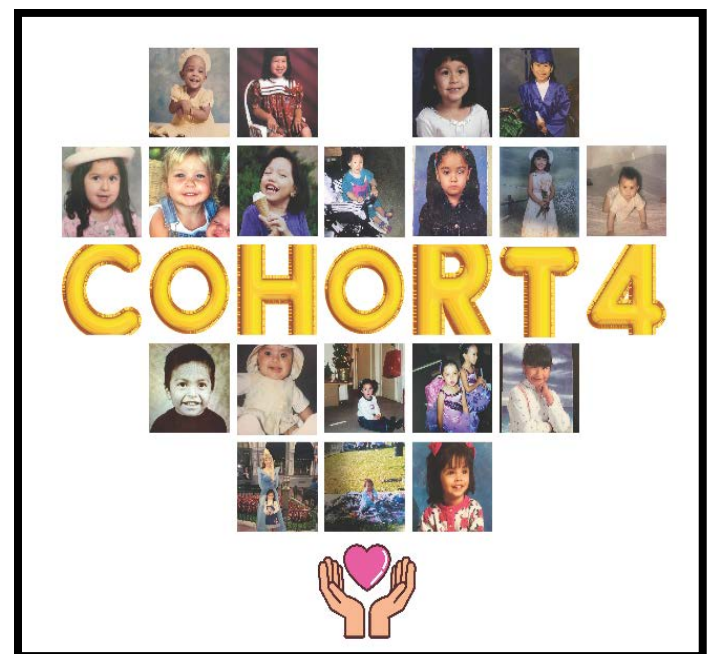
created safe environments to examine course content, and to promote personal and professional development. The ECHO Peer Mentoring Program, Health Educators and ECHO Teams offered mentorship and opportunities to develop leadership and meaningful activities in applying lessons from the classroom to practice. The Community Health Educator course, led by Mrs. Rei Johnson provided an exceptional learning experience that strengthens knowledge and skills!

Thank you, Mrs. Ramos, Field Faculty, Mrs. Johnson, Health Educators and Students Assistants for your contributions to this program.

**Dr. Ledesma**

**CONGRATULATIONS COHORT 4  
STUDENTS!!**

***These babies grew up to be PARTY ENAMELS!***



**Beautiful babies, who grew up to bring Beauty,  
Light, Comfort and Joy  
as caring professionals &  
PARTY ENAMELS!**

**We wish you success and every blessing!**

**Catherine Gemora:**

Dr. Ledesma, faculty educators, fellow peers, and distinguished members of our community, good morning and welcome to the final day of our ECHO-LDPP Symposium.

It is a tremendous pleasure to be speaking on behalf of the last cohort, Cohort 4, as we complete this interdisciplinary training program. Back in February, we, the students coming from different departments such as Child and Family Studies, Communications Disorders, Nutrition, Nursing, and Public Health, took what seemed to be our last steps into King Hall on the Cal State LA campus. We interviewed for a position at ECHO-LDPP, hoping to be chosen for this community-based internship. Through the interview process, we could already sense a tone of unity and compassion, as one of our tasks was to collaborate with one another and deliver a presentation on what our vision of a caring community looked like. However, as we eagerly waited for our acceptance letters, safe at home orders were declared and the bustling world we lived in had suddenly stopped. In all the uncertainty that the global pandemic brought, ECHO-LDPP became a constant beacon of hope and support. Our acceptance letters were sent and our roles in this community began.

We, the 20 students selected for the internship, did not know what to expect in the upcoming months, but we were amazed with what ECHO-LDPP had to offer. The prime focus was on building relationships, training in oral health education, and most importantly, giving back to our community. At the start, we were partnered with a faculty supervisor and peer mentor to guide us through the program, but we were also amazed and grateful that our mentors cared about us as individuals. They would ask us about our classes or our personal well-being and offer whatever advice or resources they thought would be most beneficial to us. We were also invited to bond with the rest of the ECHO faculty and staff through virtual mixers such as the morning workouts, midday meditations, peer mentoring, book club meetings, Netflix parties, and our Halloween celebration. In an instant, we were engulfed in the warmth of the ECHO family.

As the summer progressed, we were exposed to the oral health disparities that our community face in their daily lives. Thanks to the hard work of the ECHO staff and our community partners, Cohort 4 was trained in oral health education not only for our focus, which was primarily for youth 0-20-years-old, but also for a wider population such as pregnant women and the elderly.



***Student Culmination Speeches from the Ceremony are printed below. These illustrate the strengths and capacities of students and the program.  
Thank you, Cat and Miles!!!***



## Una Palabra: Caring Communities Symposium, Day 2





Although we were unable to physically go out into the field like the previous cohorts, we were still tasked to deliver oral health presentations to our community through virtual means and ultimately, we still gained this professional experience.



In our Friday seminars, we gained insight into the perspective of the American Indian Alaskan Native, African-American, Asian-American, and Latinx Communities through Dr. Ledesma and many of our brilliant guest speakers. In addition, part of the internship included the community health worker certification training led by Ms. Johnson. She taught us professional skills such as effective communication, organization, and cultural humility. Each of us will take this influential and essential knowledge we were exposed to as we continue on in our professional journey.

Though our time together was short, we will always have our favorite memories to remind us of the impact that ECHO-LDPP has made on us. We'll remember when Dr. Willis asked us to share a picture of what represents our own culture and saw how diverse yet connected our community is. We'll remember how Dr. Ledesma encouraged us to take mindful moments in our work day to refresh our energy. We'll remember how Ms. Johnson trained us to be a HOT community health provider. *H for humble, O for open, and T for transparent.* We'll remember when Mrs. Ramos sent us a celebratory email immediately after the Dodgers won the World Series. We'll remember how John was committed to his ghost costume as he wore it through the entirety of our Halloween mixer. We'll remember the anxiety we felt before an oral health presentation, but also the relief and

pride that came after. We'll remember shedding tears together as we watched the documentary "Living Undocumented" in our Netflix parties. We'll remember the relationships, friendships, laughter, and joy that transpired over the past months. We'll remember our caring community.



All the relationships, knowledge, and skills from this internship have been invaluable to our growth as professionals. ECHO has taught us that building a caring community starts with education and continues on by fostering relationships. Dr. Ledesma, faculty supervisors, everyone else in the ECHO family. Thank you for giving us this opportunity to grow.

**Catherine Gemora**

#### **Miles Morales:**

When I initially joined ECHO I didn't believe I had any idea of the events that would unfold in the following year. Opportunities for outreach efforts dashed my initial plans, as the country closed its doors and civilization began to shut down. Like a lighthouse during a storm, ECHO leadership reassembled, coordinated efforts, and became a source for the creative and brilliant ideas that were much needed in a time of darkness. Collectively, we became a strong voice for a historically disenfranchised people and communities of opportunity alike. All this in order to continue moving towards a life where all can live with dignity, happiness, and safety.



But, Echo was so much more than a pilot project or its accomplishments. When I was accepted, it didn't feel as though I was hired, I felt welcomed...a part of a people. Week by week, we convened to continue expanding our knowledge, but we would inadvertently end up discussing one another's ethics and common upbringing until we were 3-4 minutes past the session. In these moments, I felt warmly embraced by the inner glow at the center of ECHO's work. Also, I've never felt more like my grandmother after a quincenara.

Truly, I have never been more content with unfinished work, because I know the path that lies ahead isn't short. As long as we remember one another's spirits, we won't walk alone. Under the tutelage of Ms. Rei Johnson, I learned the importance of humility, advocacy in all our endeavors, and became a certified community health worker. Ms. Ramos, your tireless efforts, attention to detail, and leadership was awe-inspiring to say the least. I could not ask for a better role model, especially when so much of my earlier life conditioned me to believe strength was only possible through struggle, you showed me that strength was possible through compassion. Dr. Willis, my sociological encyclopedia, our discussions on the intersections of race, gender, and class were proof to me that hours of my own curious researching about my heritage, the systems of power in play, and my place in society, were not in vain. They were really the bridge to more opportunities for learning through meaningful conversations with you that I will forever cherish.

And to the indomitable Dr. Ledesma, ECHO's Mufasa in the Sky, I wish I could find the correct configuration of words that could adequately encapsulate my gratitude to you for one day turning an idea in your mind, into a pilot, into this symposium. With the opportunity to be a member of the Research Team supervised by Dr. L, I was able to go from being an inexperienced research novice to presenting our

collective findings at this symposium. I send a "Shout-out" to Karina Quiroz, the Team Lead too! Dr. L, your dedication to this cause and to raising oral health awareness and informed trauma care is what made all of this possible. I'm profoundly grateful and will go forth proud to count myself among your students.

Finally, to my peer-professionals, hmmm, let's just speed up to the end of this story! I just want it to be known that the camaraderie that we've built over the last year, whether in late night group texts about assignments or talking about how exhausted we are from our hardest classes this semester, was like nothing I've shared with any group of individuals in my past. I've gotten the opportunity with Stephanie Vasquez to see her niece slowly grow across pictures. I've laughed without control with Jennifer Romero. And, Lauren Bruns and I have embarked on a career-long duel between who gets the higher score. I'm not sure for what, as long as I get the higher score.

I closed my research presentation yesterday with a statement about families. I'll do so here as well and explain my thoughts. Families may become the most impactful mechanism to close these disparities. Although, I speak about the families of those who we seek to uplift...I also meant families like ECHO.

**Miles Morales**

**gratitude**  
grat·i·tude | a feeling of appreciation or thanks



***An offering from, Cristina Zetino, to the ECHO-LDPP Community.***

To Dr. Ledesma, our program director, and the entire ECHO Family,

The moments shared and the work completed together has been an unforgettable experience. I know we all share this same sentiment, and the work continues in all the paths that we take into the future to advocate for our community's health and wellness. Although our program has ended, this experience and the legacy of this program will forever be carried within us. I will always remember our caring community. Unidos de Corazon, gracias Dr. Ledesma, su visión es nuestra misión.

Cristina Zetino



Cristina Zetino offered Cohort 4 students and students an unexpected gift. In a video performance, she played the song, "Remember Us This Way" (Lady Gaga) in a solo trumpet performance. Everyone in the audience was deeply moved. Thank you, Cristina, for such a lovely gift.

***The Field Faculty Send Best Wishes to the PARTY ENAMELS***

To the Party Enamels,

What an extraordinary situation: a remarkable group of students in such an unusual time! I had confidence that you would gain skills and tools to become a service provider who can serve using multiple lenses. Yet, it is the relationships you have built during this time that I believe are the secret superpower of this experience. You have all showed me how connections can be made, in a meaningful way, when we don't have rules to follow. For this, I am grateful to you all. To be extraordinary, you must be flexible, and you have all achieved mastery in this.

You will all do amazing things, I am proud to have been with you on this journey,

**Mrs. Abbasi**



Congrats to All Cohort 4 interns!

I had the pleasure of working with five incredible interns that have demonstrated amazing growth and dedication since we began in June. I've enjoyed getting to know them over the last six months, seeing each learn about new areas of interest and make significant connections. Ashley Hernandez is consistent, reliable and optimistic; Cristina Zetino is insightful, independent and resilient; John Martinez is observant, dedicated, and hard-working; Lauren Bruns is focused, energetic and open to learn and Selene Caal is determined, thoughtful and adventurous. I am so proud of them and look forward to hearing updates as I know each will take the experiences and knowledge gained from ECHO to impact their communities.

Best wishes on the next chapters of your journey!

**Dr. Ellis**





***The Peer Mentors Send Best Wishes  
to the  
PARTY ENAMELS***



I had the pleasure of having Miles as my mentee. I loved how we share many things in common like our Salvadoran culture. Miles is resilient, ambitious, inspiring and such a kind soul. My favorite part of our meetings was hearing all about his goals and how excited he is to be able to make an impact in his community as a Speech Language Pathologist very soon. Miles always welcomed me with his warm smile. He would always share his excitement over what he had learned in his CHW class every week. Miles, it was such a pleasure to have you as my mentee, thank you for allowing me to learn more about you and your passions. I wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors, I'm so excited for you to accomplish everything you have worked so hard for, I will be rooting for you!

**Monica Alferez-Merino**

To Ashley,

I'm so glad I was chosen to be your peer mentor during your time as an ECHO student intern. Your focus and hard work are admirable, and I know they will take you far in your future endeavors. If you choose to continue down the path of becoming a child life specialist, your clients and colleagues will benefit from your abundance of thoughtfulness and compassion. I am wishing you the best as you complete your Child Development degree at CSULA and explore new opportunities that will provide you with valuable experiences. The support of your family and your enthusiasm for the Dodger's success came through loud and clear in what were sometimes very unstable Zoom connections (on my end!). It was a pleasure connecting with you each week!

**Tanya**

To Cristina,

I thought we were a great match, and it was meant to be that we were paired for the ECHO Peer mentoring program. Thank you for sharing with me your passion around criminal justice reform and your commitment to supporting young people in Los Angeles. I always found our conversations to be fascinating and the time flew by when we met which is why most of our meetings clocked in at close to an hour even though the requirement was only 30 minutes! I have confidence that your dedication to serve will take you far in your chosen career. I am wishing you the best as your move through your graduate program and I know you will meet the challenges that present themselves head on.

**Tanya**

BOARDING PASS



**eCHO**  
Educational Community Health Outreach  
LOCAL DENTAL PILOT PROJECT

Seat  
**L17**



For a Celebration of ECHO-LDPP's Bon Voyage

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Save the Date

**LOCATION:**

Zoom Meeting  
ID: 202-447-1156

**DATE:**

December 23, 2020

**TIME:**

9:30 AM - 12:00 PM

**RSVP:**

dhall122@calstatela.edu

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