Doogo’s CFO donates $20 million dollars to her alma mater, De Anza College

By Duane Kubo, Pippa Gibson, Nga Doan, Bradley Creamer, Zaki Lisha, and Lydia Hearn (table #9)

CUPERTINO - Yolanda Arroyo is the CFO of Doogle, a high-tech firm in the Silicon Valley. She recently has committed the company to join the De Anza Mentorship Program, also donating $20 million dollars to the school. She attributes her success to De Anza College.

Yolanda was in high school, and she never imagined herself being able to go to college. Her college had a lack of academic and career counseling because of the State budget cuts that affected her local high school. Nobody in Yolanda’s family had ever gone to college, yet she thought she had some potential.

Through De Anza’s aggressive marketing campaign (especially to the Latino community), Yolanda first heard about De Anza. She applied to De Anza and as a new applicant, she was contacted immediately by the Mentorship Program.

She was invited to the Orientation Course within which she worked with a counselor to devise an Instructional Education Plan (IEP) and a Financial Plan (FP) which were specifically catered to her needs and goals. Upon completion of the Orientation course, she was given the Ipod IV (donated by Apple) which contained Podcasts of the various services that are available at De Anza College. Through her online student account she was able to download information and interact with her IEP.

Based on her current schedule, through the bookstore she was able to download all the necessary materials she needs such as e-textbooks, supplemental videos, syllabi, class assignments, and so forth.

She was assigned a personal mentor based on her needs, interests, and goals. Within the first six weeks of the quarter, they met twice in person with two other students to get to know each other. The students received support from the mentor and they formed a cohort with each other for support.

Midway through the quarter her brother immigrated to America and needed her support to help him get settled into school and so forth. She missed 2 classes because of this. Based on the early warning alert system that was implemented with faculty, her mentor was contacted regarding her absences. The mentor contacted Yolanda and determined the reason for her absence. Yolanda discussed options with the mentor (e.g. finishing the course through Distance Learning, having her fellow students help take notes during that time period, catching up on lectures through her Podcasts).

In Spring Quarter of her first year, she secured an internship for the summer and the next year with a local accounting firm, which allowed her to quit her minimum wage job. During her second year, she was accepted to UC Berkeley Haas business program. While she was finishing up her second year she became a mentor for her local high school where she was assigned to an at-risk student.

Her family attended her graduation at De Anza College and spoke to Yolanda’s mentor who let them know the variety of courses we offer. Her grandmother and her brother then took a Literature course together.