

Communication from the Workforce Development, Education and Training

DATE: August 18, 2022

TO: All ACBH Team Member

FROM: Sanjida Mazid, Manager - Workforce Development, Education and Training

SUBJECT: **ALAMEDA COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CAREER PIPELINE SCHOLARSHIP AND MENTORSHIP PROGRAM**

The Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Workforce Development, Education and Training in collaboration with Ohlone Community College hosted a scholarship awards ceremony and reception on Thursday, August 11, 2022, to celebrate eleven community college students who were awarded a scholarship from the Alameda County Behavioral Health Career Pipeline Scholarship and Mentorship Program.

The program is funded by the State Workforce Education and Training Program, overseen by the Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), with California Mental Health Service Authority (CalMHSA) serving as the fiscal and administrative intermediary. Among the eleven recipients, seven were recent Ohlone College students/graduates. The program is the first of its kind to provide financial support by way of scholarships to community college students interested in entering the behavioral health field. California is experiencing serious workforce shortages in behavioral health and needs to address the growing challenges of how to increase diversity and improve language capacity of the public behavioral/mental health workforce. The unique aspect of the program is that in addition to tuition support, awardees will be participating in a mentorship program where they will be connected to professionals in the field, build a supportive community with each other, and gain practical skills to improve their academic success and job prospects.

Congratulations to these students as they begin to blaze a new path.

