

Crystal Garza

Salinas, CA



Professional Summary

Dedicated community advocate, full-time student, and aspiring educator with a strong commitment to serving women, children, and families in Monterey County. Experienced in supporting diverse populations through education, mentorship, and community engagement. Brings valuable lived experience, resilience, and a passion for promoting equity, opportunity, and access to resources. Committed to collaborative leadership, public service, and helping create positive outcomes for individuals and communities through advocacy, education, and prevention efforts.

Core Qualifications

- Community Advocacy & Public Service
- Leadership & Team Collaboration
- Program Development & Coordination
- Youth & Family Engagement
- Student Support & Mentorship
- Behavior Management & Conflict Resolution
- Event Planning & Community Outreach
- Communication & Relationship Building
- Educational Equity & Inclusion
- Research & Problem Solving
- Google Workspace
- Time Management & Organization
- Cultural Awareness & Community Engagement
- Lived Experience in Overcoming Adversity
- Domestic Violence Awareness & Prevention Advocacy
- First-Generation/Non-Traditional Student Perspective
- Community Resource Navigation

Professional Experience

Paraeducator

Salinas City Elementary School District – Salinas, CA

2014 – Present

- Provide instructional support to students in general and special education settings.
- Deliver one-on-one and small-group interventions in reading, math, and behavioral skills.
- Support English Learners and students with diverse learning needs.
- Implement PBIS and behavior support strategies.
- Collaborate with teachers, administrators, specialists, and families to support student success.
- Coordinate student activities, school events, and enrichment programs.
- Coach youth sports and mentor students in academic and social development.

Education

Bachelor of Arts (In Progress)

California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB)

Major: Liberal Studies

Expected Graduation: Fall 2026

Associate Degree in Elementary Teaching

Monterey Peninsula College

Graduated: May 2024

General Education Diploma (GED)

Certifications

- Registered Behavior Technician (RBT)
- CPR Certified
- First Aid Certified

Additional Experience

Youth Sports Coach

- Volleyball Coach
- Basketball Coach
- Mentor and role model for elementary-aged youth.
- Develop teamwork, leadership, and sportsmanship skills.

Community Leadership

Founder

Safe Choices & Strong Minds (Developing Nonprofit Initiative)

- Developing an early violence prevention and youth development program focused on supporting children affected by trauma, community violence, and gang exposure.
- Building partnerships with schools, families, and community organizations throughout Monterey County.