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ALEJANDRO AVALOS

School Counselor Laguna Creek High School Sacramento, Calif.

WHY ARE YOU AN ASCA MEMBER? The ASCA community has been a place where I've met a diverse group of people and have been blessed with lifelong friendships with people who share

WHAT INSPIRES YOU ABOUT BEING A SCHOOL COUNSELOR? Being a school counselor inspires me because it allows me to meet students where they are and find innovative ways to connect with them. I am passionate about supporting students throughout their educational journey and walking alongside them as they navigate various stages of their lives.

WHEN AND WHY DID YOU KNOW YOU WANTED TO BE A SCHOOL **COUNSELOR?** My aspiration to become a school counselor began when I was a kid involved in gangs. I was considered the bad kid everywhere I went and was constantly getting caught in troublesome activities. Thankfully, my middle school counselor met me where I was at and instilled hope in me. Through all the headaches I caused, he never gave up on me and loved me unconditionally.

FAST FACTS > WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE SMELL AND WHY? THE SCENT OF PINE TREES; IT BRINGS BACK MEMORIES OF FAMILY CAMPING TRIPS FROM MY CHILDHOOD. > WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE DESSERT? CARROT CAKE AND MINT CHOCOLATE CHIP ICE CREAM > WHAT'S YOUR **GUILTY PLEASURE?** SPENDING LONG HOURS AT THE GYM CHATTING WITH FRIENDS INSTEAD OF WORKING OUT > WHAT SUPERPOWER DO YOU WISH YOU HAD? TELEPORTATION, SO I COULD VISIT YOSEMITE IN SECONDS > WHAT COULD YOU TALK ABOUT FOR 30 MINUTES WITH NO NOTES? PROBABLY ANYTHING. I LOVE BEING A CHISMOSO, WHICH I INTERPRET AS HEARING AND TELLING STORIES AS A WAY OF HEALING AND KEEPING OUR FAMILY TRADITIONS ALIVE. > DO YOU HAVE ANY HIDDEN TALENTS? HANDCLAPS - SHOUTOUT TO ALL MY DRAKE AND JOSH FANS (IYKYK)

READ MORE ABOUT ALEJANDRO WWW.SCHOOLCOUNSELOR.ORG/IAMASCA WHAT BRINGS YOU JOY? Joy for me comes from conversations with my partner, quality time with my family in Mexico, eating delicious vegetarian food and anything that involves a tent and rock climbing gear.

CONTRACTOR DE WHAT DO YOU DO TO DECOMPRESS/ELIMINATE STRESS/REFUEL FOR THE NEXT DAY? Staying active is crucial for my stress relief. CrossFit has become a vital part of my routine, helping me to reset and recharge. Additionally, spending time with loved ones and being involved in my community helps me maintain balance.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR JOB TO A 5 YEAR OLD? It is the best job in the world. You get to listen, play, draw, color, be kind and help people when they need it.