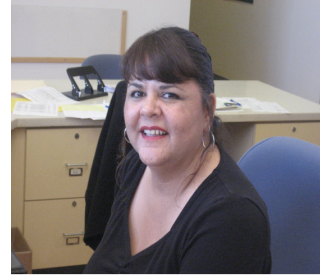


HAPPY 40-YEAR ANNIVERSARY EOPS!

This is the first of a series of stories to showcase our Gavilan staff and former EOPS STUDENTS. Learn more about our STARS!



When we asked Cindy Gonzales to tell us what was most beneficial to you as an EOPS student, her response was easy... "Your program not only helped me financially when I was at the most vulnerable time of my life, but it helped build my confidence level to a point that I felt like I could do anything. ...the EOPS Program and staff gave students that little extra bit of encouragement needed to keep pushing forward..."

As a young adult, Cindy did not know her career would have been in the education field. She is currently the Child Development Departmental Assistant. Twelve years ago, she was one of the parents, as a single mother utilizing the services at the Child Development Center. This gave her an advantage in what kind of environment she would be working in, which she says, "Is the Happiest Place on Campus... When times get tough for a parent I can honestly tell them that I understand exactly what they are feeling and going through and really mean it."

Cindy returned to school after facing some challenging times and barriers. Even though she struggled for a couple of years, it was the best decision she could have made. "I have not given up on my education. I have two certificates in General Office and Medical Office and I am currently finishing up my General Education requirements for my Associates Degree."