Telling Our EOP Stories
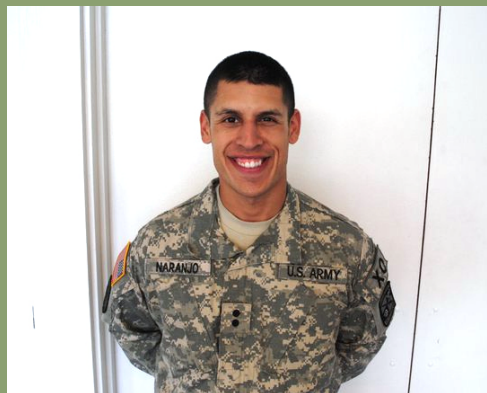
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Success Has No Boundaries

By Nu Vang

Mario Naranjo is a 3rd year criminology student who also wears many different hats throughout the regular school week. In the early hours of the weekday mornings, Mario can be seen doing physical training as part of the campus ROTC program. He is also a National Guard reserve and completes training drills at the base once per week. Mario doesn't stop here. Keep an eye out during Fresno State's football games as Mario marches with the Marching Band playing his tuba. He does all of this in addition to fulfilling all the expectations of an EOP student.

Mario states that his motivation and determination comes from his family. Both of his parents are immigrants from Mexico. Mario said, "My dad was only able to get a G.E.D. and my mom only went up to the 6th grade in Mexico; we are living in kind of a tough life right now." He recalls coming to Fresno State as a freshmen and having to leave his family behind in Gilroy, CA. He explained, "The way how I got to Fresno was I got on a Grey Hound bus, I threw all my bags into the bus, and said good-bye to my parents." Mario added, "That was my good-bye, it was pretty tough."

Mario said he promised his parents after graduating high school that he would do anything to excel in college and he has kept his word. Mario has achieved academic excellence earning a spot on the Dean's List during the fall 2008, spring 2009, and the fall 2010 semesters. He has only three more semesters's before he becomes the first person in his family to graduate from a university. He will obtain a Bachelor's degree in Criminology. Mario plans to pursue graduate school in Public Administration. His aspirations are to pursue a career in the military, specifically making a positive impact on military personnel, all the while serving his country.