

Torrey Pines CAT 124 Student Reflection

As cheesy or cliché or whatever you want to call my next statement, it's true - this program has changed my life. Three years into college, struggling in my econ classes and going along with a major I never truly loved, I finally figured out what to do with my future. It's funny how I've always loved working with kids, enjoyed school, and still keep in touch with several of my childhood teachers, but somehow the idea to pursue this type of profession never really crossed my mind. Perhaps it's because I was never given such an opportunity to appreciate what my teachers experienced day in and day out; even though I admired them, until now, I never once thought I wanted to be them when I grew up. Despite any career prospects the practicum experience may have brought me, I've gained quite a bit of knowledge when dealing with kids and adults in general, balancing out my role as both buddy and authority figure, as well as getting Alejandro* motivated to learn and express himself in creative ways. Our own relationship has blossomed into something truly special and unique; never did I even imagine just how much I would grow to love him.

* pseudonym