



## **Erica De Guzman**

Erica Masako De Guzman stands out as an exemplary scholar athlete with a strong sense of community. From a young age, Erica has demonstrated her commitment to giving back. Through her church, she has spent over 300 hours taking care of toddlers during service and serving as a crew leader for 4 to 5-year olds at their summer camps. She has also hosted incoming freshmen as an ambassador at her high school and completed over 100 hours tutoring her peers in subjects such as AP Chemistry and Calculus.

Erica played with the Bruins Rising Starz for 9 years and recently reunited with some of her former teammates to form the 12<sup>th</sup> grade Dropouts team. She has volunteered at the Pee Wee clinic and at the Nikkei Seniors Luncheon and Teriyaki Takeout.

She also participated in the Bruins 5K for 2 years with her parents Merv De Guzman and Cindy Fong. Erica characterizes her time with the Bruins as being integral to her development and learning about teamwork, responsibility, and commitment while gaining confidence and special friendships. She would like to incorporate a networking opportunity into the Bruins program so that younger players can connect with older players with questions about high schools and colleges.

Erica's experience on the Bruins helped her to earn a spot on her varsity basketball team throughout all 4 years of high school. During this time she won the Coaches Award as a freshman, was named the Most Improved Player as a junior and was chosen as a Team Captain in her senior year. She was also honored as Player of the Game three times.

Academically, Erica maintained a weighted GPA of 4.65 at Marantha High School. Some of her distinctive accolades include being a four-time member of the Dean's Gold List Honor Roll and one of the 2,500 National Merit Scholarship winners from a field of 15,000 finalists from across the U.S. She was recognized with an AP Scholar with Distinction Award, a National Honor Society Chapter Emerging Leader Award, and the Head of School Scholar Athlete Award in both basketball and softball.

To round out her high school career, Erica played in the woodwinds section of the high school orchestra for four years and served as the orchestra pit musician for the school's "Wizard of Oz" production in 12<sup>th</sup> grade. She was a member of the Ambassador Service Club, the American Sign Language Club, the Science Bowl Team, and the Science Olympiad. During her junior year, she founded and served as the President of a Coding & Electronics Club. One of her favorite activities was the SeaPerch Underwater Robotics program. As a team captain, she led her team to a first place finish in the U.S. Navy SeaPerch Competition. Following this, they went on to compete in the International SeaPerch Challenge where they placed 8<sup>th</sup> overall and 4<sup>th</sup> in the Engineering Notebook.

Erica continued to explore her interest in engineering by attending the UCLA Engineering Tech Summer Camp, the EPIC Engineering Possibilities in College camp at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, and a 7-week intensive summer program in Next-Generation engineering at USC. As she embarks on her college journey, she has decided to major in mechanical engineering at USC where she has received a Trustee Scholarship and has been appointed as a USC Viterbi School of Engineering Fellow.



## **Kayci Hiramawa**

Kayci Hiramawa is the one who stays up late making lei's for her classmates or rounds up her teammates to volunteer for a day of beach cleanup. Her former teachers describe her as a compassionate, positive, hardworking, responsible, and egalitarian leader who always goes above and beyond her required duties to help her community.

The daughter of Brian and Catherine Hiramawa, Kayci has devoted numerous hours helping out at food banks, blood drives, and tutoring. She volunteers at the Bruins Pee Wee clinics, 5K walks and Obon. Kayci also volunteers as the Head

Coach for the intermediate girls basketball team at Telesis Academy and as the Assistant Coach for the Bruins Defenders team. The parents on these teams praised Kayci for her maturity in teaching the importance of practice, responsibility, teamwork, and effort.

Her own career on the hard court has been an exceptional journey. She joined the Pasadena Bruins in 1<sup>st</sup> grade and played on the Rising Starz team through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. As a freshman, she made the Rowland High School Varsity basketball team and was given Honorable Mention in both her freshman and sophomore years. She then transferred to Nogales High School in her junior year and earned 2<sup>nd</sup> team all league honors and was named Team Captain of their varsity team. She also played on the Pasadena Vikings and Swoosh club teams and rejoined the Bruins as a member of the 12<sup>th</sup> grade Dropouts team.

Kayci has a cumulative unweighted GPA of 4.105 at Nogales High School. She was named to the All Montview Academic Team and has earned a listing on the Honors Roll and Principal's Honor Roll for her scholastic achievements. Her senior year culminated in being awarded a ranking in the top 10 of her senior class. She was also selected to the All Academic team in the Montview League which recognizes her as having one of the 5 highest GPA's in the league. Her activities outside the classroom include the National Honor Society, HOSA and the Japanese Club.

One thing that stands out about Kayci is her awareness and understanding of the different social economic groups in our community. She hopes to implement a program within the Bruins to get teams to volunteer together to give back not only to the Japanese community but to non-as fortunate communities as well. She believes this will open the eyes of young Bruins to the other problems in the community that need to be addressed.

Kayci will be attending Cal State Los Angeles this fall and entering in their nursing program.



## **Kyla Kikkawa**

Kyla Kikkawa puts her heart into all she does - whether it's on the basketball court, in the classroom, on the dance floor, or in the community. A lifelong Bruin, Kyla is the legacy of a founding family and the daughter of Ken and Karen Kikkawa. She played for the Rising Starz team from 1<sup>st</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade and recently reached out to her former teammates to form the Dropouts 12<sup>th</sup> grade team. In between these years, she volunteered at the Pee Wee Clinic and Bruins 5K. Her goal for the Bruins is to implement an alumni social media network to increase the connectedness between past and present Bruins scholarship recipients so they can share opportunities for future involvement within the Japanese American community in a college setting.

Outside of the Bruins, Kyla was selected to be a part of the Yonsei Basketball program with whom she traveled to Japan to compete in the Goodwill Games and participated in an exchange program to live with a Japanese family and then hosted them in return in Los Angeles.

Kyla is also an accomplished performer. She was the Captain of the Flintridge Prep Spiritline School Cheer and Dance Team. She landed the lead female role in her high school musical and took to the stage as part of the school improv group ComedySportz. As a member of the Hip Hop Club all four years, she led them as their president for the past 2 years. Throughout high school, she competed in the Junior Hit-List Hip Hop Dance Competition Team and won numerous accolades including World of Dance LA 1<sup>st</sup> place, Maxt Out Competition 1<sup>st</sup> place Minor Crew and Judges' Best Theme Award.

Giving back to the community is a big part of her upbringing. She volunteered numerous hours as a music ambassador at the Huntington Hospital where she played the ukulele and sang to entertain hospital patients. She co-founded the Changes in the Community Giving Circle and raised funds to give over \$10,000 in grants to various organizations in the Asian American community. Some of her other activities included the Rising Stars Youth Leadership Program and Kizuna Youth. During the summers, she volunteered as a camp counselor and traveled to Nicaragua to help build a school library, play music for patients in a pediatric cancer hospital, and taught classes in Biology and History to students at a bilingual school. Kyla uses her dance expertise to plan and teach hip hop classes to elementary school kids in the PUSD. She has also created dance video exercises for people with Parkinson's as part of her Girl Scouts program that she has actively participated in from Kinder through high school.

Academically, Kyla excelled with a 4.19 unweighted GPA. She was named to the Dean's List and CSF from 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Some of her academic honors in her senior year include being selected for medical Camp at Children's Hospital Los Angeles and as a participant in the Coolest Projects North America. Kyla will be attending Washington University in St. Louis where she plans to explore her interests in neuroscience, entrepreneurship and the performing arts.