LEAP AWARD SPOTLIGHT

California Senator Monique Limón

How did you first become involved with IVYP?

Prior to being elected to public office, I worked for the Cal-SOAP (CA Student Opportunity and Access Program) who partnered with IVYP to help families navigate the college-going process with workshops, college nights, and parent school partnership training. While serving as a school board member on the Santa Barbara Unified School District, I had the opportunity to engage with IVYP who served families of students in our district. As a state legislator, I have supported IVYP programs including the emergency preparedness fairs in 2019, helping connect agencies to participate and provide resources to families in attendance. I have also celebrated the opening of the Community Center on Embarcadero and the transition between executive directors. I have taken these connections with non-profits like IVYP, to move issues forward at the state that will support local organizations meeting the various interests of my constituents. This includes the formation of the Assembly and State Senate Select Committees on the Non-profit sector, both of which I have chaired.

What is one thing people should know about IVYP?

IVYP continuously evaluates the needs of children and families, adjusting to the times in need. This is how children and families can be best served.

Who was your favorite teacher and how did they inspire you?

I had multiple favorite teachers, Ms. Dalfanso in second grade at Harding Elementary School who treated us not just as her students but cared for us like members of her community. Ms. Cox in sixth grade at Cleveland Elementary School who believed in me and my future in ways that helped me believe in myself.

When you were 5, what did you want to be when you grew up?

A Teacher.

LEAP AWARD SPOTLIGHT

Ken Saxon

How did you first become involved with IVYP?

I am the founder of a local organization that invests in and connects nonprofit and community leaders in our region via our leadership programs and networks. Almost 10 years ago, I met LuAnn Miller (when she participated in our Courage to Lead program) and Juan Pimentel (when he was in our first cohort of our Emerging Leaders program). Over the years, we at Leading From Within have had five current or former IVYP staff leaders in our leadership programs and networks (in addition to LuAnn and Juan, also Lori Goodman, Liz Hahn and Tyler Speier). Also, three current IVYP board members are alumni of our programs — Eileen Monahan, Chuck Flacks and Max Rorty. Through getting to know all these great people and supporting them and engaging with them over the years, I've gotten to know the work of IVYP.

What is one thing people should know about IVYP?

From my particular perspective — it would be that IVYP has been - and is - a very well-led organization. They've had stable and strong leadership for many years — Executive Directors, staff and board. And in recent years, Lori Goodman and IVYP have stepped up their leadership in the broader region, by organizing the Goleta Valley Community Partners group. IVYP definitely punches above its weight in terms of its impact on the South Coast, and especially on its families.

Who was your favorite teacher and how did they inspire you?

Mrs. Spencer, first grade teacher. I just answered this question on a local podcast put out by the UCSB School of Education. You can hear the three-minute story starting at minute 25:53 at the link below.

https://schooledradio.com/2021/11/22/gratitude/

When you were 5, what did you want to be when you grew up?

A baseball player. I was a huge Baltimore Orioles fan.