

Stefany Cruz

Stefany Cruz is a first-generation graduate from the University of California, Davis where she earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Biological Sciences in 2020. She spent much of her undergraduate career as a student volunteer at one of the few distinguished student-run clinics under the UC Davis School of Medicine. Stefany's experience and knowledge led her to Via Care Community Health Center in East LA. Under the CDC CHICAS (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Community HIV Interventions for Community Based Awareness and Services) program, Stefany worked as an HIV Navigation Specialist where she conducted HIV testing, navigated HIV prevention services, educated, and advocated for women's sexual reproductive health and services. As a frontline worker during the COVID-19 pandemic, she administered creative ways of meeting community member's health care needs by expanding telehealth care services, mailing at-home HIV tests to patients, and handing out educational pamphlets alongside prophylactics throughout the greater Los Angeles area. The support she received from her fellow co-workers within the LGBTQ+ department gave her the confidence to be an outspoken, tenacious, and innovative leader. With a Master of Public Health degree from UCLA, she looks forward to reducing health disparities within marginalized communities by creating energizing, empowering, and safe clinical spaces for all. Stefany's commitment to ending the HIV epidemic remains strong. Excited to be an agent of change, she is currently working for St. Jude's Health Centers as an HIV Prevention Services Coordinator. Under HRSA's (Health Resources and Services Administration) End the Epidemic grant, she is strengthening the on-going HIV prevention and care in primary care settings. During her free time, Stefany loves to read fantasy book series, spend time eating good food with her family and friends, and find ways to make herself and this world a more beautiful place to be in. She is a triple air sign and loves to feel the breeze in her hair whether she is skating, biking, or running!