

Steven Beadle first Buena Vista High student qualified to go directly to a four-year college

A foster youth who had to overcome much adversity is the first Buena Vista Continuation High student qualified to go straight to a four-year college from the high school, according to Principal Rigoberto Vasquez.

Steven Beadle, 17, of Chino, has been accepted at Cal State, Stanislaus, and has also applied to Cal Poly Pomona, Cal State Dominguez Hills, and Cal State Fullerton.

Another Buena Vista student, Destiny Miguel also recently qualified to go to a four-year college. She and Steven were honored by the Chino Valley Unified School District Board of Education at its Jan. 7 meeting.

This month, Steven will take Spanish at Chaffey College's Chino campus while still enrolled at Buena Vista.

Steven plans to major in sociology or criminal justice in a four-year college and pursue a career as a police officer in Texas or Colorado. "I'm very passionate about public safety," he said. "I'd like to help on the streets."

He practices Krav Maga, a self-defense system developed for the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) that consist of a combination of techniques from aikido, judo, boxing, and wrestling, along with realistic fight training. He also recently took a ride-along with a Chino Police officer to get an idea what it would be like to work in law enforcement.

Steven said he is driven to succeed because, as a foster child for the last three years, he has seen a lot of youth in that system fail. "I don't want to be one of those," he said. "They don't take advantage of what they are given to help them." He also said he's learned to stay away from drugs, which he believes is often a downfall for youth in foster care.

Steven was behind on his coursework when he came to Buena Vista 18 months ago. He was a sophomore with only 158 credits towards the 225 needed to graduate. He is now at 206 credits.

Although he is expected to soon have enough credits to graduate from high school, he plans to stay in school until June to make sure he has all the A-G credits required for the California State University system.

Principal Vasquez said he believes Steven is the first BV student to qualify for a four-year college because courses taught at the school were not approved as college preparatory until a couple of years ago when former counselor Anna Fierro-Purcell "took it upon herself to have all of our courses submitted and approved." Fierro-Purcell is now an assistant principal at Chino Hills High.

"As a result, Steven's courses taken at Buena Vista are accepted now by Cal State and University of California universities," Mr. Vasquez said. "Steven is the first, and we have an additional two students who may be accepted by late February or early March. Steven turned in his college application very early."

Steven said the teachers at Buena Vista “are cool” and he praises his counselor Veronica Rios for helping him succeed.

“He’s definitely very self-disciplined, goal oriented, and motivated,” said Rios. “He’s just a great kid, overall. He’s the highlight of my career. He’s very humble, which makes him amazing.” She said Steven’s success is a great example for other students at the school.

Steven said his drive to succeed comes from a motto he’s tried to live by. He said that if you’re swimming and in trouble and you see an island, “you’ve just got to keep swimming.”

“If you give up, you never know what the outcome could be,” he said.

Pictured:



Steven Beadle on the Buena Vista Continuation High campus in Chino.



Teachers, counselors, administrators, and staff from Buena Vista Continuation High are pictured with students Destiny Miguel and Steven Beadle (center, holding certificates) as they are honored for being the first Buena Vista students to qualify to go straight to a four-year college.