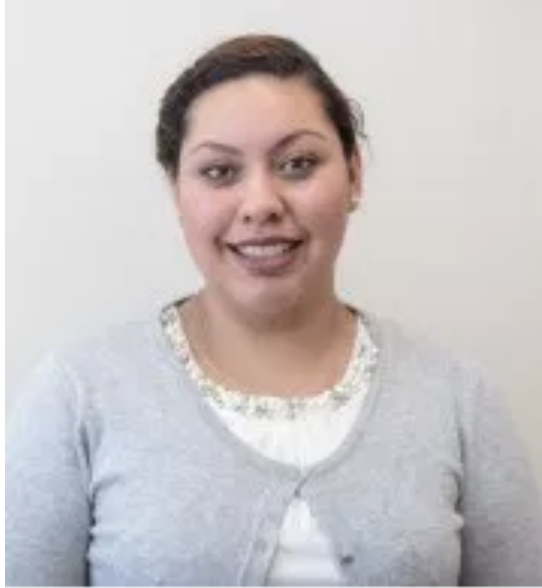


MARIA PEREZ – February 2015

“Merritt is Where My Heart Is,” Says Former Student Who Now Helps Others



Maria Perez was accepted at 10 universities throughout the state after graduating from high school. But she chose Merritt so she could be close to home.

Five years later, after earning three degrees, holding temporary positions in Business Services and in two VP offices, and now beginning a permanent position, she feels like she is making a difference at her second “home.”

“Merritt is where my heart is,” says Maria. “I knew what it feels like to be that student coming up the hill from Oakland, and I’ve had a lot of experience interacting with the diverse population of Merritt. By identifying with the students, I hope I’ve been providing the customer service that is needed.”

Maria brings her wealth of knowledge and service to her new job as Staff Assistant in Division II., where is also learning the “faculty side” of the college. Says Maria, “It’s nice to know I can implement the knowledge, experience, and everything I learned at Merritt into my new position.”

—*Susan May*