

# **CAL STATE EAST BAY'S ROLE MODELS PROGRAM GIVES STUDENTS NEW PERSPECTIVES**



That notion ties in to the national debate about polic

"I told them what I did, and what I'm doing now," he said. "They tell me what they're doing. One kid told me he deals drugs, and I said, 'Dude, you've got to turn your life around.'"

Another student was a real troublemaker in class, but by the end of the semester, Singh said, "He told us, 'My mom just died. They're sending me to live with my uncle, who he hasn't seen in 10 years. He was finally opening up and telling us why he was behaving that way. He just needs some guidance.'"

Lori Villanueva, the principal at Tennyson, a high school of 1,300 students, said, "The University Role Models program is probably the best program I have on campus. The impact of having university students on campus, talking to my students, interacting with my students, having been just like them and being able to understand them, can mentor them, talk about going to university — there's nothing else that I have that can have an impact like that."

Many of the Tennyson students have never been to CSUEB, even though they can look up to the hills and see the campus from their school. Not only do they draw inspiration from the CSU students, but opportunities like Photo Voice bring them to campus, so they can start envisioning themselves in college.

"Our goal," said Ituarte, "is to provide the kids at Tennyson with hope so they can make a good decision. Many of them have never seen that college is a possibility for them."

The Role Models program started with a federal grant of \$320,000, but now needs to raise money to keep going. For more information, see the program's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/universityrolemodels/>), or contact Ituarte at [silvina.ituarte@csueastbay.edu](mailto:silvina.ituarte@csueastbay.edu) (<mailto:silvina.ituarte@csueastbay.edu>).

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## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



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## CAMPUS



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## CONNECT



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## LEGAL



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## TOOLS



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