

Distinguished Graduate

2023



Vanessa Quinones

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADMINISTRATION
HOMELAND SECURITY**

“Failing to prepare is preparing to fail.”

– Benjamin Franklin

Vanessa is a first-generation Latina student: she lived off-campus, worked full time in public safety, kept her focus through a world-wide pandemic, and maintained a GPA above 3.2. She graduated high school with the class of 2000 and received her first studies in artificial intelligence in the Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps.

Vanessa knew that her generation would require strong academic skills, curiosity while learning, originality, self-confidence, and the strength of mind to balance education and career. She knew the world was changing rapidly and that upcoming generations needed to understand that life should challenge them to become a better version of themselves.

At Alamo Colleges she was invited to join SACs chapter of The National Society of Leadership and Success. She also received a \$500 scholarship for books from the American Association of University Women (AAUW), and AAUW awarded her a scholarship to an all-women’s leadership conference. She was awarded a partial scholarship to study in Ireland during the summer of 2022. She graduated from SAC in the fall 2022 and continues to acquire the knowledge she knows she needs to turn her dreams and aspirations into reality by serving nationally.