The U Prep Schools mission, ***we prepare students for success in life***, continues to resonate with our alumni throughout their college and professional careers.

Rachel Fernandez

University Prep Academy 2016 Graduate

College of Creative Studies
2020 Graduate
B.F.A Photography

Alumni Profile

What grades and years did you attend U Prep? What district did you attend?

I attended (UPrep) from 6th-12th grade. I was in the first 6th grade class the school had, starting in 2011 when the school opened. I graduated in 2016.

Why did your parents choose U Prep?

My mom and I chose UPrep for me because I was very interested in art and we thought that the school seemed to be the best fit for me with all that they offered, especially being paired with CCS.

What fond memories do you have of your experience at U Prep?

I went to Cuba for spring break in 2016 and for the end of the year art show I was given the opportunity to showcase my photography, as well as the book I made full of my photography from the trip. The Scholastic Art awards were also something that was very fun to be part of. I have received 2 silver keys and 1 gold key from past submissions of mine.

What did you love best about your time at U Prep?

The thing I loved the most about my time at UPrep was the privilege of the Dual Enrollment program, where you were able to take college foundation classes at CCS and have the credits count towards your future college credits. Dual Enrollment was the best part of my high school experience and a huge benefit towards my full ride scholarship to CCS.

How did U Prep prepare you for success in life?

UPrep helped to prepare me for success in life by giving me a space to create long lasting relationships with my teachers, as well as connections to the art world. UPrep gave me the confidence to be a creative person and strive for the best. UPrep gave me a platform to create within and it made me a strong creative.

What are you doing now?

Currently I am working on personal photo projects and assisting with professional photagrapher Jenny Risher. I just graduated from College for Creative Studies in May with my BFA in Photography. I am also getting work ready from my thesis project on Immigration and human rights for installation in the Woodward windows (next to MOCAD) where there will be several photography alumni from CCS showcasing their thesis work from this past year, later this October.

What are your plans for the future?

In the future, I hope to have an editorial photo job creating work that is meaningful and informative.

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