JERONIMO ORTEGA

Majors: Psychology and Women's & Gender Studies
Minor: Latin American & Caribbean Studies

Educational Highlights: Throughout my four years at the College of Charleston, I have taken an active role on campus. I'm fortunate to have been a part of creating community through the Hispanic and Latino Club for the past three years. I volunteered for over two years as a peer counselor for Students 4 Support and led as a Co-Social Media and Marketing Exec for a year. I will be returning this summer to the College of Charleston for a fourth summer of welcoming 3,000 students and their 2,800 family members as an Orientation Ambassador, and I've been named Orientation Intern of the Year for the past three consecutive years. I'm also a member of Psi Chi, the National Honor Society in Psychology. I am grateful for the experiences that the College of Charleston’s expansive clubs and organizations have provided, as they helped shape me into a well-rounded person in and out of the classroom.

Research Focus or Project: The opportunity to complete an internship through the Spartanburg Mental Health Center has been some of my most meaningful work I've done. I served as the Social Media Ambassador for one of South Carolina’s only Latinx and BIPOC Mental Health Outreach Program. For nearly six months, I crafted three social media campaigns, advocated for the importance of mental health resources, and participated in support groups led by my supervisors. It was through this opportunity that I confirmed my passion for advocating for mental health wellness and the power of self-empowerment.

Future Plans: I plan to return to Mexico for a gap year to catch my breath before embarking on my next adventure. I hope to reconnect with my passions prior to beginning the application process for prospective Counseling Master’s programs. Then I will equip myself to foster change in the world through a mental health and self-empowerment platform.

This award is presented by Gibbs Knotts, Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, and the Department of Women's & Gender Studies at the College of Charleston, Spring 2022.