



Christina Hernandez Nelson graduated from Sunnyside in 2006. She attended Fresno State and majored in Business Management. During her second year, she was uncertain about her career path, so she took some time off and moved to Florida to participate in The Disney College Program where she was introduced to many offerings outside of Fresno. She later continued her education at Fresno City College online and earned an Associates in Business Management. While in school, she started her career as an Entertainer in the theme park industry. From working Disney, Universal, SeaWorld, and Legoland, she had many opportunities performing in many shows and parades. She wanted to further her education and earned her Bachelor of Science in Visual Effects. This not only gave her the opportunity to understand the film industry and use it as a great networking resource, but also gave her the ability to work freelance in her own home. Her specialty is animation and lip synchronization. Currently, she works at Universal Orlando as an Entertainment Production Events Coordinator. Her workplace involves managing and facilitating entertainment with special events. She has come full circle from performer to management and helps plan events through booking talent to execution of the event. She works on set with filming commercials for Halloween Horror Nights and Grinchmas; and works as the Makeup and Prosthetic Coordinator during Halloween season. She has worked in the Entertainment industry for over 10 years with Universal because it is not only a career, but also a lifestyle where she is surrounded by people who share the same love and passion. She has a great support system with her husband, her 2 dogs Forest and Taki and her cat Nightmare who continue to motivate her. She is goal oriented and is always searching for new learning endeavors. Being a K Pop enthusiast, she is learning Korean and plans on visiting Korea sometime soon to start searching for new career opportunities within the music industry.

She is grateful for the educators and staff at SHS because they helped shape the person she is today. Thank you Amanda Peterson for always being so kind and never giving up on me. Being part of the AVID program did keep me on track while being an athlete/dancer. Christina says, "I always knew I wanted to work in a creative environment, but I was not too sure which path I needed to take. I needed a little reassurance to push me towards the direction on where I wanted to go. Lo and behold, I enrolled in Photography my sophomore year which introduced me to Tamela Ryatt. She will always forever be an influencer of my life as she has taught me many lessons besides how to develop a photograph in 35mm film. I still to this day shoot pictures and have a professional website for my occasional photography work."

Christina's advice for current Wildcats is, "Do what you love and work towards your goals to get to where you want to be. It is ok if you do not know right away or change your career path multiple times (I changed my major 5 times during college). The important thing is making progression and living your life to the fullest. Try new things and make mistakes along the way to learn "what not to do" in the future. There is no right or wrong way in doing so, however this is your life and you are the driver so when opportunity knocks at your door, you answer. Never be afraid of taking risks."