



ANGEL SÁNCHEZ

B.A. BIOLOGY '15

A former Army medic who spent one year in Afghanistan, one year in Iraq, and often jumped out of airplanes to help others, Angel Sánchez is used to thinking on his feet and dealing with a wide array of challenges.

"I was a paratrooper and field medic, and I loved it," says Sánchez, an Oxnard native and first-generation college graduate. "I easily could have made the Army my career."

However, his military experience spurred an even bigger dream – one that would require him to pursue a different path.

"I worked with physician's assistants constantly as a medic, and I admired the role they play in health care," he says. "The PA I was assigned to in Italy had been a paratrooper medic with the famous 82nd Airborne. I was so inspired by him and others that I decided to become a PA, even though that meant leaving the military to further my education."

Sánchez began his academic journey by completing the EMT Paramedic program at Ventura College and continued on to get his bachelor's degree from CI at age 33.

He currently works as Health Center Manager for Clinicas Del Camino Real's Ocean View facility, a federally qualified full-service health provider that helps address the needs of many low-income community members. His responsibilities include overseeing the clinic and supervising medical doctors, dentists, social workers and all support staff.

"My wife is pregnant and completing her doctorate in education, so I won't be pursuing my PA anytime soon, but I get a lot of satisfaction out of my present job," says Sánchez. "My dad was a farm worker in the 60s and 70s. Knowing I'm helping people like him, and some who are just down on their luck, is very rewarding. We make a big difference in people's lives."

NOTE: A self-described "band geek" who played trumpet in his high school's marching band, orchestra and jazz ensemble, Sánchez enjoys playing guitar and piano in his free time. He continues to serve in the Army Reserve.

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