KIM VEGA

B.S. COMPUTER SCIENCE '05

Knowing that significant, influential organizations often have humble origins, Kim Vega didn't hesitate when asked if she'd like to transfer from CSUN to become part of CI's first class in 2002.

"I jumped at the chance," says Vega. "CI was brand new and offered an opportunity to lay the groundwork for future students. It was exciting to do something that would have a lasting impact on the community."

A graduate in computer science, Vega has provided IT services for the County of Ventura since 2008. For the past two years she has worked for the Department of Child Support Services. She describes this recent work as the most rewarding of her career.

"My customers are the staff that assist local children and their families," she says. "At times, their work is difficult. When I'm able to do something that makes their job easier, that's when I'm most fulfilled."

Vega, who says she feels a great sense of pride in what CI has accomplished, is not surprised by the University's rapid progress.

"Even in the short time I was there, I saw CI grow and change a lot," she says. "Almost every semester new staff, majors and student services were added, and construction projects were taking place. However, what was most impressive was the atmosphere on campus. It was *electric*. Staff and students were given a blank canvas on which to create and share their vision of what CI should be. The shared energy, commitment and enthusiasm was palpable and manifest everywhere."

Asked to comment about the role President Rush played in advancing CI, Vega adds: "I think being asked to lead a brand new university was a huge task and that he succeeded at it tremendously."

NOTE: In addition to being among the first students on campus, Vega has attended every CI Dodger Day!