

KARLA ORTIZ

M.B.A. '10

Around age five, Karla Ortiz saw one of her school teachers cut her hand accidentally and rushed to her aid. Seeing the little girl in action, the teacher jokingly commented that she should consider becoming a doctor.

"I always tried to care for others who were hurt, so those words stuck," says Ortiz, who is now attending medical school at Ross University in Dominica, West Indies. "During my undergraduate and graduate studies, I volunteered a lot at hospitals and fell in love with taking care of those who were sick. Feeding, bathing and reading to patients further solidified my dream of becoming a physician."

Ortiz, who was born in Ecuador but moved to Santa Barbara just before kindergarten, received her bachelor's degree in biology from Loyola University Chicago. She then earned her master's in Biotechnology & Bioinformatics, as well as her M.B.A., through a dual-degree graduate program at CI. It was this program that Ortiz says helped her land a position at Amgen contractor Eurofins Lancaster Labs before med school and will position her to achieve her goals afterward.

More recently, Ortiz had the opportunity to volunteer onboard the USNS Comfort, a former oil tanker and currently the largest hospital ship in the world. Doctors and nurses from the U.S. travel through the Caribbean and Latin America to provide medical care to 130,000 patients as part of the "Continuing Promise" mission.

"I would like to open my own clinic and, later on, offer some free clinics to countries in need, as well as work with local churches to provide health services," she says.

Ortiz hopes to graduate from Ross in May 2019. Her current interest is pediatrics.

CSU
CHANNEL ISLANDS
One University Drive
Camarillo, CA 93012

www.csuci.edu