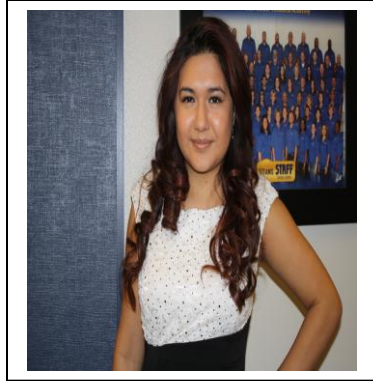School: East Career and Technical Academy
Contact: Lisa Edler
Work phone: 799-8888 ext. 4018
Cell phone: 835-3840
Email: lisaedler@interact.ccsd.net

East Tech Medical Program Senior
President of Valley Hospital Teen Volunteer Program

Nancy Sutter, Mary Christianson and Dennis Ryan, instructors for East Tech's Medical Program, encourage their students to volunteer and give back to their community during their four years in high school. In the past two years, two of their seniors – Brenda Dillman (class of 2013) and Vanessa Hernandez (class of 2014) – have been the president of the Valley Health System Teen Volunteer Program.   To tell Ms. Hernandez's story, she had been volunteering at Valley Hospital for two years, including summers, when she was appointed President of the Valley Hospital Explorers Program on May 19, 2013. Her new role encompasses training new volunteers and organizing speakers to speak to the students during volunteer meetings. She continues to volunteer in the emergency room giving patients warm blankets and she also volunteers in out-patient surgery where she cleans beds, restocks supplies, sends papers to the lab, and makes out charts. The nursing staff treasures her work ethic and her kindness to patients. One nurse even gave her college books to help her prepare for her future! Ms. Hernandez is passionate about helping people and through this experience, as well as her classes at East Tech, she has strengthened her collaboration and presentation skills.   She has also discovered various types of health careers through her volunteer service, which is helping her to decide the health profession she is going to pursue in college. Her advice to other students is, "You have to really earn what you strive for and don't limit your goals. Set your goals and don't settle for less; hard work will pay off." Her program teachers are very proud of Ms. Hernandez and her leadership during her four years in the Medical Program and are especially impressed with how she has touched the lives of patients at Valley Hospital Medical Center. For further information about the Teen Volunteer Program the website is http://www.valleyhealthsystemlv.com/community-information/volunteering.