

Carlos Martell Ayala

Student Pinnacle Award

Vancouver Campus

Carlos Eduardo Martell Ayala was born in El Salvador and is 20 years old. Before coming to Vancouver, he lived with his parents, Juan Carlos and Guadalupe de Martell, and his sister, Andrea. He moved to Vancouver in May 2014 to pursue a Bachelor of Science degree in Information Technology with a minor in Business Administration at Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU).

Carlos completed his primary and secondary education at Colegio Champagnat, where he excelled academically. He was awarded the “Señor Presidente” scholarship by FEDISAL as a result of obtaining the only perfect score out of 83,776 Salvadoran senior-year students. This scholarship covered 100% of his university expenses, as well as living expenses, while completing his studies at FDU.

Since arriving at FDU, Carlos has been an important participant in many student clubs and organizations on campus. In 2014, he joined Toastmasters, which helped prepare him for his participation in the Student Government Association (SGA) in the following year. Thereafter, he took on roles of increasing participation and responsibility in the SGA until he was elected SGA president in 2016. Carlos also was also a core member of the National Model United Nations club on the FDU-Vancouver campus. He was selected as a delegate and went on to represent FDU as part of the award winning delegation that represented Samoa at the 2017 National Model United Nations in New York. Carlos has earned a

lot of respect from his peers both as a student leader and as the Student IT Assistant where he provided much needed help to students needing IT support after hours. He earned great respect from his supervisors who appreciated his dedication and talent.

Back in El Salvador, Carlos volunteered with TECHO, Glasswing, and Starbucks El Salvador. In Vancouver, he attended many shoreline cleanup activities, and volunteered for almost 3 years at the Holy Rosary Cathedral at the weekly Spanish mass on Sundays.

After graduation, Carlos expects stay in Canada to develop his career at Cloudreach, a local cloud provider, where he has had the opportunity to intern for 6 months during his last semester.

“Technology is always changing, so it is important to always keep studying to stay up to date. My career journey has just begun, and Fairleigh Dickinson University is the best stepping stone that I could have wished for”.