

# *In Memoriam of Linda Osuorji*

**The Collective Remembrances of Berkeley  
Community Scholars Staff, Mentors, Scholars,  
and Board Members. (2/25/23)**

She was a light in the world and always  
smiling,

She taught me much in a short time,

An amazing force, a raging star

Who advocated for students throughout her  
illness.

Surprisingly competitive during game nights,

She was my go-to,

A cool cat.

Played Jenga and the first time I ever lost,

Twice now, 2:0 against me,

Always seeing her made my day better.

Without her I would have dropped out of  
college,

They gave me a path to focus,

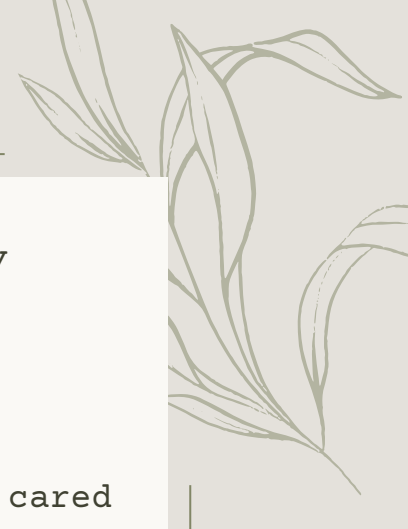
How do we do this without Linda?

Our own internalized Linda, asking the next  
question,


Dogged determination to make an impact in the  
lives of our students,

A remarkable smile, a fierceness of love,  
determination, and passion,


Made me the person who could be a good  
mentor, a non-judgmental supportive  
person, A guard at the gates,  
A joy to see such a level of passion  
protecting the community,




Really insisting I share my best self with my  
mentee,  
Opening myself to this experience,  
A hole in my life, a giant cavern.  
Three-way texts,  
She has so many people who respected her and cared  
for her.  
Let's create a memorial walk, healing ourselves.  
Me and Linda had a close relationship ever since I  
started, being adamant to turn my application in,  
Always smiling to tell me she was there,  
Always gave the energy that she saw my best,  
It's hard to reach the finish line,  
A blessing and an honor to know her.  
I love you immensely and am deeply saddened to  
lose you.  
Motivated to know she is always routing for all of  
us.  
Such a loss to everyone, a team player, an  
ambassador for the organization. Speaking her mind  
in an honest way.  
Smile, joy, warmth, infectious, a good kind of  
infectious, doing more for more, helping people  
rise up, the kind of person we should all be.  
Seeing pictures made me think she is still here,  
A hatred of bugs,  
Floods of memories,  
Don't know what to do with them.  
Dragging her out for coffee to discuss everything,



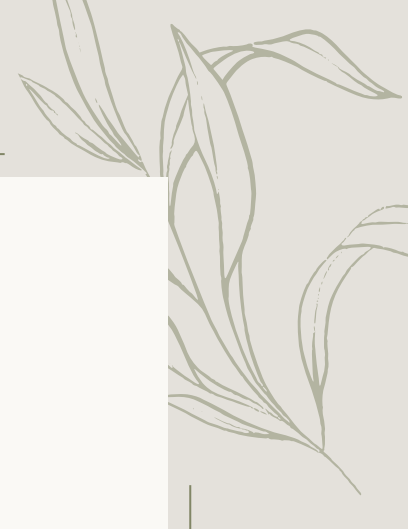
How non-judgmental, understanding us, a  
different understanding, a real  
understanding. You are who we are looking  
for, I told you, being looked out for




I will see her again, exemplified the teachings of  
God, fought for the voiceless, she understood the  
battle every single day,  
Laughing at my durag,  
The energy never dies, it just changes form.  
Important to take time to mourn and to be  
grateful,  
No pit of deep sadness, such a blessing.  
I love Ms. Linda, I miss her, Auntie like family,  
it's very hard.  
It was never just about school. Actually caring.  
Motivation to stay on it, the fruits of my labor,  
determined to follow through, We need more of  
that.  
Puts aside what they have going on to help  
students of color, showing real love. Persuaded me  
to be a mentor, "you got this," and it turned into  
one of my best experiences, On top of her  
friendship, this is so meaningful, I am now  
recruiting others, giving me that push,  
devastation, definitely missed,  
Received with open arms,  
Reminded of the innate goodness in all of us,  
With a full heart to remember the smiles,  
The games, the passion for mentorship, the first  
person out of college who believed in me, Renewing  
commitment to being a mentor.  
Trying not to cry, my older sister who helped me  
finish my degree,  
Truly genuine,



A light in everyone's life,  
Waiting for her to text me,  
"How is your cat?"  
Dancing over diplomas,  
Teaching mental health first,



Taking care of myself is important,  
Making right choices,  
Telling her thank you now,  
Making me feel seen,  
Not just a job,  
Wouldn't have finished my degree.  
Wishing to say thank you and give a big hug,  
The greatest mentor out there,  
A big ability to pull people into her orbit,  
Building a community,  
Made me feel safe,  
Believing in myself,  
Carry her with me for the rest of my life.  
Resourceful, finding the answers to questions,  
Never judged, never made me feel bad,  
Long conversations on life issues,  
Don't worry.  
Letting me riff, keeping her spirit alive,  
A larger circle that forms around this program.  
Things being all over the place, you can do all of  
these things, continuing to do all of the things I  
want to do.



**Always Remembering Her.**  
**THANK YOU.**