

Berenise Rangel was born in Porterville, CA in 2002 and is the proud daughter of Gerardo Rangel and Irma Lemus. Shortly after her welcoming to this world, her parents took her back to their ranchito in Mexico, Las Tortugas, Michoacan, where she grew up until the age of 8. There she learned to value family, hard work, and the importance of cherishing your roots. Since a young age, Berenise became aware of her grand desire to indulge in education and create a life for herself different than the adverse one her parents had lived. Although this ranchito was rich in culture, tradition, and religion, it lacked the two things she prayed for most. Opportunity and education. While she was still young, her parents migrated to the U.S. in search of the American dream. It quickly became clear that her parents had sacrificed everything familiar for a life filled with uncertainty and unfamiliarity, a single opportunity for their children to live a better life.

Berenise has lived in Lindsay since then, she attended Lincoln Elementary where she slowly became fluent in her second language, English. Her heavy Spanish accent was always present as a reminder that she was different, that she carried a story different than those around her, and most importantly a motivational factor to continuously improve herself. What others may have seen as an imperfection in her speech, she saw as a trace of the ethnic roots living within her. Not long after, she began being recognized for her academic accomplishments. Little by little her hard work began to pay off. The smile of her parents and the sparkle in their eyes as she walked across the stage every time was priceless. This marked the beginning of a long journey.

She attended Lindsay High School where she formed part of the Academy of Engineering. Throughout her high school career, she received multiple academic awards including honor roll and her academic letter. Aside from her academics, she also formed part of Advanced Via Individual Determination (AVID), the Hispanic Honors Society (HHS), the California Scholarship Foundation (CSF), the Rural Education for Americans Project (REAP), and the Rotary Club. Berenise was named Kiwanis Terrific Kid for two consecutive years by the Lindsay City Counsel and Rotary Club and was Camp Royal's (leadership camp) recipient junior year of high school. With a full plate, Berenise enjoyed clearing her mind by participating as a year-round athlete playing volleyball, basketball, wrestling, and track and field. By her senior year, she had been named valley champion and most valuable player for wrestling, valley champion in her events and most valuable fielder for track and field, and recognized by ESL for volleyball. Given her devotion to sports, she became the Associated Student Body (ASB) commissioner of female athletics, where she enforced female athletics around campus.

Knowing that college was just around the corner, she searched for opportunities to prepare her. With a little fear of what would come with such a change, she took on an internship opportunity with the City of Lindsay Civil Engineer, Neyba Amezcua. Neyba possessed exceptional knowledge and held a rich story similar to that of Berenise. It was refreshing for her to have the privilege to work with a woman who had walked similar paths as her and had "made it". Soon after, she was making use of summers to take on community college courses to serve her

university degree and during her senior year began taking them during the regular school semester. During this time, she also volunteered at the yearly Lindsay Chamber of Commerce banquet, serving those in the community and observing businesses be recognized for their dedication. Additionally, she volunteered to help with community raffles geared towards aiding poverty with Helping One Woman (HOW) where she learned the importance of paying it forward and paying it back.

Berenise has always dreamed of becoming a research scientist and is captivated by the wonders of the world that surrounds us. Following high school, she attended UC Berkeley where she obtained her Bachelor's degree in Geology, and took part in two years of undergraduate research. During her time at Berkeley, she became part of the Hispanic Scholarship Fund (HSF), a non-profit organization geared towards providing opportunities for first-generation, low-income, Hispanic students. She continues to form part of this organization and has served as a mentor for STEM conferences and a speaker for multiple conferences, where she shared her journey and the obstacles she encountered whilst reaching for the stars. She now works as an on-site geologist with Horizon Well Logging at one of the leading geothermal energy projects in the world being led by Fervo Energy in Milford, Utah. Berenise hopes to continue her educational career in the near future and foresees herself standing in a place where she will be able to generate a bigger impact on the community that watched her grow and develop educationally. An impact filled with opportunities for students like herself, and a bridge to aid those who continuously face adversity.

Regardless of all her accomplishments, her father's voice remains loud within her, "Siempre manten los pies en la tierra". Always remain with your feet on the ground. With this said, Berenise says that no accomplishment will ever be bright enough to blind her from her parent's sacrifices and hard work as farm laborers. She still remembers the scalding hot summers and paralyzing cold winters working in the fields with her parents picking all types of fruits. Oranges, lemons, tangerines, olives, cherries, and grapes. There is no doubt that her dedication and discipline aren't a result of a gift, but rather a consistent act of love her parents exemplified.

Berenise is far beyond blessed and honored to have been selected as the 2025 Orange Blossom Festival Queen. Having formed part of the Lindsay community for the past 15 years, she recalls the liveliness and togetherness that takes part on this day. She is honored to embody her roots as a Mexican-American, as a proud daughter of immigrants, and as a young woman who built herself a career and found herself opportunities to reach her goals through adversity. Berenise hopes to inspire both girls and boys, young and old, to not lose hope and to serve as a reminder that regardless of where you are planted, you have the opportunity to bloom.