



**50**  
YEARS  
1968 • 2018

# Celebrating 35 Years of *Building the Dream*



**Thanks to the generous support of our committed network of partners, we have been transforming academic and professional outcomes for Latinx youth—our nation’s largest and fastest-growing demographic—continually innovating solutions that empower them to succeed!**

Every year, the Foundation serves 2,000 first-generation high school, college and graduate school students, as well as military veterans, from underserved communities.

A dynamic model created by the Foundation and comprised of the College Readiness and College Success Programs, our *Continuum of Education* helps close the educational and professional gaps faced by low-income, first-generation students. Through a unique combination of highly effective programming, financial resources and a comprehensive support network, historically 98% of our high school students graduate and almost without exception pursue post-secondary education; and 99% of our college students earn at minimum a Bachelor’s and are equipped to enter the competitive 21<sup>st</sup> Century workforce as well-prepared professionals.

In addition, approximately 75% of TELACU Scholars earn degrees in a STEM- or Business-related field. Today, an Army of more than 10,000 TELACU Scholar Alumni strong stretches across our nation and beyond, carrying on our mission of **service, empowerment, advancement**, and the creation of **self-sufficiency** within underserved communities. They are the researchers and engineers, the entrepreneurs and CEOs, the educators and policy-makers, the well-educated role models who will inspire and invest in new generations of leaders for decades to come.

## Building the Dream for 35 Years...



In celebration of the Foundation's milestone anniversary, Alumni representatives from over the past 35 years joined us at the Annual *Building the Dream* Gala to express their heartfelt thanks. Below are the dreams they were able to build with the generous support of partners like you.

Eric Barajas, Judge Lucy Armendariz, Kristie Hernandez, Angel Prado, & Domenika Lynch

*Because of your belief in my potential when I was just a young teenager from East Los Angeles, I became the first person in my family to earn a Master's degree and was empowered to represent my community at the highest levels of government. As a former political appointee in the Obama Administration, I worked at the Pentagon advising the U.S. Secretary of Defense on legislative affairs, and later I served as Deputy Director of Congressional Relations at the Peace Corps.*

-Kristie Hernandez, MPA

Director of Programs and Operations, Veterans Affairs Relations Office, UC Los Angeles

*After serving in the U.S. Army, and with TELACU's support, I was fortunate enough to be the first in my family to earn a college degree. Following law school, I was the first Latino to make partner at one of the Big Four Accounting firms, and today I co-lead our rapidly growing national tax practice in financial services.*

-Paul Estrada, JD, MBA  
Partner, Ernst & Young

*TELACU supported me throughout my entire collegiate career, empowering me to graduate as one of "Poets and Quants" Top 25 MBAs in 2015. Today, I manage a core business of over \$500MM and lead initiatives and projects that will realize \$4B in 2018 alone!*

-Eric Barajas, MBA  
Senior Buyer, Target

*Because of a life-changing internship made possible by TELACU more than 20 years ago, TELACU will always be a part of me. I gained invaluable experience in the office of the very first Latina Rhodes Scholar—Cathy Sandoval—who was then a high-ranking official at the FCC. Today, I am the highest-ranking Latina in major league baseball!*

Naomi K. Rodriguez  
Vice President of External Affairs, Los Angeles Dodgers



Naomi K. Rodriguez

# OUTSTANDING GRADUATES OF 2018

## HIGH SCHOOL



**ANTHONY RODRIGUEZ**  
Esteban E. Torres High School  
East Los Angeles Renaissance Academy  
*Bachelor's in Biology Candidate*  
UC Santa Barbara

Anthony's determination transformed adversity into success. Despite complex medical issues and his family's housing displacement throughout his last academic year, he graduated with a 3.84 GPA. While excelling academically, he also completed Terrorism and Personal Safety Training and earned several awards, including 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Gridlock competition at Metro. As a UCSB Gaucho he will explore how to maximize his degree and fulfill his personal mission to help children suffering from medical conditions lead happy, healthy lives.

## COLLEGE

**ESMERALDA CERVANTES, BS**  
*Computer Science*  
University of Notre Dame



Esmeralda is passionate about inciting interest in STEM—specifically in young, minority students. Immersed in campus activities, she served as Research Assistant for the University's Institute of Latino Studies and the College of Engineering. She rounded out her Senior year as Chapter President of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) and Advising Fellow of the Notre Dame Matriculate Chapter, where she mentored high-achieving, low-income high school students. In September, she began her professional career as an Associate Software Engineer at Capital One.

## POST-GRAD



**STEVEN CESAR ALMAZAN, MPP, M.ED.**  
UC Berkeley – Goldman School of Public Policy  
*M. Ed., Special Education*  
Loyola Marymount University  
*BA, Communication and Psychology*  
University of Southern California

Steven is committed to shattering systemic injustices that prevent students of color from achieving success. He advocated for the School Climate Bill of Rights—an LAUSD resolution that guaranteed a safe, high-quality school with an appropriate learning environment for all students—and has championed educational access for all as a teacher and fellow with organizations like Education Pioneers, Teach Plus, and Angelenos Organizing 4 Education. As one of the youngest elected officials in Los Angeles, for two years he impacted public policy as Outreach Chair and Community Seat Member on the Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council.

Now, having earned his Master's from the number-one-ranked public policy school in the nation, he is supporting the creation and implementation of teacher-led policy as Managing Director of External Affairs at Educators for Excellence.

## HEALTH CAREERS



**LIZETH INIGUEZ, ADN**  
Rio Hondo College  
*Bachelor's in Nursing Candidate*  
Azusa Pacific University

Lizeth is proud of "breaking boundaries that people told her she couldn't." One of 13 siblings, she is the first to pursue and to attain a college degree! This September she joined the Adventist Health White Memorial team and began classes at Azusa Pacific University in pursuit of her Bachelor's. Her long-term goals include earning a doctorate, becoming a Nurse Practitioner, and raising awareness of diabetes and hypertension, two of the most pervasive diseases impacting the Hispanic community.

## VETERANS PROGRAM

**MARTIN HERRERA**  
*Social and Behavioral Sciences Major*  
Pasadena City College



Martin's excellent test scores, dedication to the Program and spirit of support for his fellow vets earned him recognition as Scholar of the Quarter from Veterans Upward Bound. He is continuing his academic career at Pasadena City College and plans to blend an education in Social and Behavioral Sciences with his military background, dedicating his professional career to the continued support of our nation's brave veterans.



# The Continuum of Education

## HIGH SCHOOL

Students on the path to becoming the first in their family to attend college receive guidance to ensure they graduate equipped to achieve higher education. Campus tours and immersive summer residency programs, as well as support with the complex application and financial aid processes, prepare students to make that next big leap into college life.

## COLLEGE

Finances often dictate whether a student earns their degree or drops out—and first-generation students need much more than financial support to succeed. From academic advisement and career preparation to leadership development and mentoring, the Foundation provides the comprehensive support system and services that empower them to graduate and successfully launch into the professional world.

## POST-GRAD

The need for advanced degrees continues to rise. To mitigate the financial disparity for students from underserved communities, in partnership with TOYOTA and Purdue grad students receive scholarships and additional resources that empower them to earn Master's, JDs, MDs and even PhDs from some of our nation's most prestigious universities.

## HEALTH CAREERS

Created to develop a pipeline of nurses equipped to deliver culturally sensitive, in-language care to our underserved Latino population, this Program provides specialized training; financial resources to cover tuition and living expenses; and a full complement of personal and academic services. Graduating with an offer of employment from a partnering hospital, many participants are inspired to attain the advanced degrees needed to achieve positions of leadership and influence in health care.

## VETERANS PROGRAM

To empower our brave veterans to more effectively transition into college, the Foundation provides personalized support and comprehensive services that include a variety of free college prep courses, as well as advisement on GI Bill benefits and guidance on navigating the complex college admissions and application processes.



*Support from believers like you empowered me to earn my Master's in Public Policy from Berkeley. I proudly served as political appointee for President Obama in both the U.S. Department of the Treasury and at the White House as Deputy Director of Private Sector Engagement.*

**Andrea Ambriz, MPP**  
Chief of Staff, SEIU Local 2015

*In the mid-90s, TELACU helped me finish law school. After serving on the State Bar Court of California for over a decade, just three days ago, on June 5<sup>th</sup>, I was elected to the Los Angeles County Superior Court!*

**-Judge Lucy Armendariz**  
Los Angeles County Superior Court

## **TELACU will always be a part of me...**

*TELACU helped me Build my Dream of graduating from USC as a young, single mother, more than 20 years ago. I had the privilege of returning to my alma mater to empower other first-generation students as Executive Director of the Latino Alumni Association.*

**-Domenika Lynch, MFT**  
President & CEO, Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute

*I was a TELACU Scholar in middle school, high school, college, and law school. After graduating from Cornell Law, I spent several years with the Federal Trade Commission in Washington DC, enforcing our nation's antitrust laws. Most recently, I was part of the team representing AT&T in its historic acquisition of Time Warner.*

**Angel Prado, JD**  
Associate, Crowell & Moring



**Andrea Ambriz**



**Hon. Marco Antonio Firebaugh**

I'm here this evening to thank you for helping one of the most transformative figures in California, and my dear friend, *Build his Dream* of attaining an education that empowered him to better the lives of countless individuals and families—the late Assemblymember Marco Antonio Firebaugh.

A giant, whose service as the majority floor leader made him the highest-ranking Latino in the Assembly. A man, like so many gone too soon, whose courage and belief that government should work for the people led him to champion the rights of the most vulnerable among us—the right to a college education...the right to breathe clean air...the right to civil liberties that are disproportionately lacking in our communities.

Some of us in this very room may have a successful career today because of his game-changing AB 540 legislation, which to this day provides undocumented students in California access to a good education for the same tuition as other California residents. A tireless advocate for immigrants, hard-working families, and those without a voice, Marco's legacy lives on.

**-The Honorable Richard Polanco**  
Senator, 22<sup>nd</sup> District (Ret.), California State Senate

SAVE THE DATE!

36<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL BUILDING THE DREAM GALA

JUNE 7, 2019

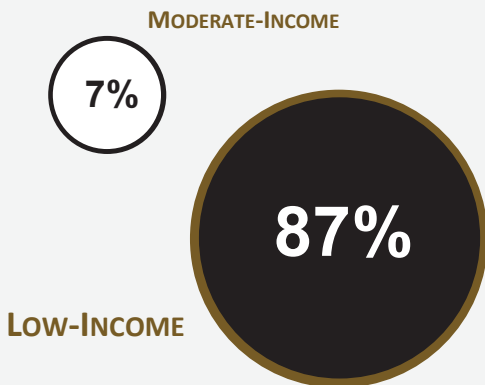
**At TELACU,  
we believe that  
the true measure  
of success is not  
the number of  
our Scholars who  
enter college, but  
the number who  
graduate!**

**2017-18 ACHIEVEMENTS**

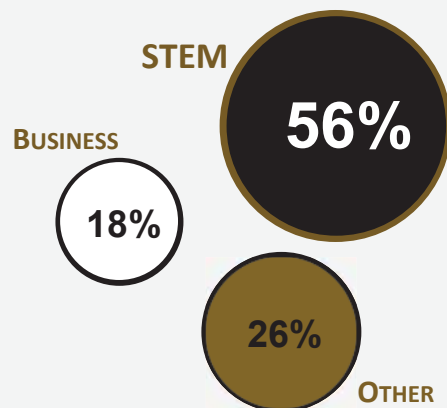
- 99% of our eligible college seniors graduated and 98% of all others advanced to their next respective collegiate level
- 99% of our high school seniors graduated—compared to rates as low as 72% in the same local public high schools—and almost without exception pursued post-secondary education
- 100% of Health Careers Program nursing school students graduated, earned their RN licensure and received full-time employment
- Awarded scholarships to nearly 400 first-generation college students in California, Illinois, Texas and New York
- Provided academic programs and services to more than 1,600 high school students and veterans
- Provided comprehensive college preparation programs to low-income youth at 10 public high schools
- Conducted a 5-week summer college residency program as well as 33 college/university campus tours for highschoolers and veterans
- 4 high school graduates selected as Gates Millennium Scholars (4-year, full-tuition scholarship)
- 1 Veterans Upward Bound participant selected as a Posse Veteran Scholar (4-year, full-tuition leadership scholarship)
- 1 high school graduate selected as a Questbridge Scholar (4-year, full-tuition leadership scholarship)
- 25 high school graduates received other prestigious awards including Dell, Jose Huizar, META, and Berkeley's Fiat Lux Scholarships

**Our College Success Program Scholars volunteered more than 7,200 hours—equivalent to nearly 4 years of full-time community service!**

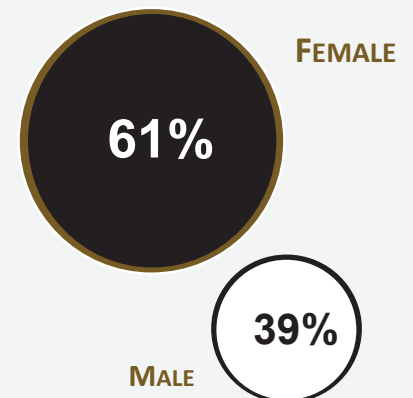
**FOUNDATION DEMOGRAPHICS**



**SCHOLARS BY INCOME**



**SCHOLARS BY MAJOR**



**SCHOLARS BY GENDER**