



THE TELACU EDUCATION FOUNDATION

IMPACT REPORT 2017



Over nearly 35 years, in partnership with our network of committed partners, the TELACU Education Foundation has equipped thousands upon thousands of first-generation Latinos with the tools necessary to shatter barriers to their academic and professional success.

Each year, the Foundation impacts the lives of more than 2,000 high school through graduate school students, as well as brave veterans, who live in underserved communities. Supporting Latinos—our nation's largest and fastest-growing demographic—not only ensures that these outstanding young people have the opportunity to build their own American Dream, but also empowers them to help build a better future for us all.

Our *Continuum of Education*, a dynamic model created by the Foundation and comprised primarily of the College Readiness and College Success Programs, propels these students from high school through graduate studies while also preparing them for successful entry into the competitive and increasingly technical 21st Century workforce. Traditionally, more than 80% of TELACU Scholars earn degrees in STEM and Business-related disciplines and graduate prepared to fill our nation's need for highly skilled professionals in these demanding fields.

TELACU Scholars have built a stellar legacy collectively and individually. Historically, approximately 98% of our high school students graduate and almost without exception pursue higher education; more than 99% of our college Scholars earn at minimum a Bachelor's degree, with an increasing number going on to seek advanced degrees.

Today, an army of TELACU Scholar Alumni stretches across the country and beyond. They are the researchers and engineers, the entrepreneurs and CEOs, the educators and policy-makers; they are the leaders who continue making America—a nation founded on the hopes and dreams of immigrants—the greatest nation on Planet Earth!

OUTSTANDING GRADUATES OF 2017

TELACU Scholars continue to build a **Legacy of Success**. Historically, **98%** of our high school students graduate and nearly all of them pursue a college degree; more than **99%** of our college Scholars earn their Bachelor's—and a growing number go on to pursue advanced degrees!

HIGH SCHOOL



ALONDRA MERAZ
Franklin High School
Kinesiology Major, CSU Los Angeles

Alondra is transforming childhood tragedy—losing her younger sister to leukemia and her grandfather to lung cancer—into fuel for her success.

Seeking to advance treatment of these devastating diseases, she is an avid student with a tireless work ethic. She balanced her studies with extracurricular activities including involvement with La Raza Unida and Animal Helpers, serving as captain of the JV Softball team, and holding down a job to contribute to her single-income family, all while maintaining a 3.6 GPA! As if that were not enough, she tutors a young student with a learning disability and babysits to earn extra money for her household.

COLLEGE



STEPHANIE HARO, BS
Electrical Engineering, Brown University
PhD Candidate in Speech and Hearing Bioscience and Technology
Harvard University-Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

Stephanie's outstanding undergraduate work ethic compelled the Division of Medical Sciences at Harvard to recommend her for admittance—she begins her program as a PhD Candidate this Fall.

As an Undergraduate Research Assistant, she worked on the modification of an infant cry analyzer to increase its accuracy and replicability—it is now up to 75% accurate in identifying non- vs. pain-elicited cries. Her graduate level coursework has focused on biosonar and imaging techniques that have applications ranging from improved CT scans and mammograms to integration with a biologically-inspired autonomous guidance control system. An impressive CV for anyone, more so for a first-generation Latina from East LA!

Recognizing that she could challenge the perception of minorities and women in the sciences, she worked diligently to be the best and most prepared Teaching Assistant at both MIT and Brown, earning multiple Undergraduate Teaching and Research Awards. Now, with a promising future in auditory biomedical engineering and teaching, she is pursuing her PhD at one of the most respected universities in the world—Harvard.

POST-GRAD



BRIAN RAMIREZ, PHD
Mechanical Engineering, UC Los Angeles
MS, Mechanical Engineering; Emphasis in Solid and Structural Mechanics
UC Los Angeles
BS, Mechanical Engineering, Cal Poly Pomona

Brian is, at his core, a purveyor of knowledge.

In just four short years, he has transformed from a TELACU Scholar completing his Bachelor's to a David C. Lizárraga Fellow, *Sponsored by TOYOTA*, earning the highest degree in his field!

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Since 1983, TELACU Scholars have built a stellar legacy. Historically, approximately 98% of our high school students graduate and almost without exception pursue higher education; more than 99% of our college Scholars earn at minimum a Bachelor's degree, with an increasing number going on to seek advanced degrees.

HIGH SCHOOL

Students on the path to becoming the first in their family to attend college need ongoing academic and personal support to ensure they are taking the right courses to graduate from high school and are equipped to succeed in college. Campus tours and even immersive summer residency programs at local universities help strengthen their resolve, while the intense support they receive navigating the complex application process poises them to confidently take that next big leap into college life.

COLLEGE

At this stage in their journey, financial resources often make the critical difference between a student earning their degree or having to drop out. But financial resources alone, as important as they are, are insufficient to ensure that students are able to make the difficult transition from high school to college and ultimately to graduate. The Foundation provides students with the comprehensive support system and services—from academic advisement and career preparation to leadership development and mentoring—that empower them to discover their passion and fulfill their purpose.

POST-GRAD

In today's increasingly competitive and technical global workforce, the need for advanced degrees continues to rise. With few sources of financial assistance available for grad school, students from underserved communities are left at a distinct disadvantage. In partnership with TOYOTA and Purdue's Krannert School of Management, the Foundation mitigates this disparity by

offering students scholarships and a full complement of resources that empower them to earn Master's, JDs, MDs and even PhDs from some of the most prestigious universities in the nation.

HEALTH CAREERS

For students interested in the nursing profession, the Foundation created a specialized track that provides financial resources to cover tuition and living expenses as well as a full complement of personal and academic services. This includes training that equips them to deliver culturally sensitive patient care in the language understood by our local underserved Latino community—Spanish. Participants graduate with an offer of employment from a partnering hospital, and many rejoin our *Continuum of Education* to attain the advanced degrees that poise them to achieve positions of leadership and influence.

VETERANS PROGRAM

The Foundation empowers the brave men and women who have sacrificially served our nation in the military to more effectively transition into college. Veterans receive personalized support and comprehensive services, including advisement and guidance on GI Bill benefits, as well as the complex college admissions and application processes. Veterans are provided with access to free college preparatory courses—from the basics to computer science and typing—taught by experienced instructors, and have access to Rosetta Stone courses.



**THANK
YOU!**

OUTSTANDING GRADUATES OF 2017

Passionate about academia, he was drawn to a career as a college professor. A two-time McNair Scholar, CSU LSAMP Scholar and one of the only Latino PhD students in his highly competitive Mechanical Engineering Program at UCLA, he has mentored students through the Mechanical Engineering Honor Society (Pi Tau Sigma), Upper Bound, the Center of Excellence in Engineering and Diversity, and the High School Summer Research Program. A proud role model and advocate for future Latino engineers, he has also been recognized as a California Alliance for Graduate Education and Professoriate Scholar, participated in the Southern California Forum for Diversity in Graduate Education and, most recently, was inducted into UCLA's prestigious Edward A. Bouchet Graduate Honor Society.

Co-author of several papers in the field of mechanics and materials, he has presented at several conferences—receiving SHPE's 2016 Best Graduate Presentation Award—and also earned a travel fellowship that enabled him to attend the Society of Experimental Mechanics International Congress. He has collaborated with Caltech and JPL as a member of the California Alliance Mentor Program, experimenting with dampening foam structures that have applications in athletic and combat protective gear. His innovative research has enabled him to co-author a pending patent, and even earned him a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant for commercialization of research that he co-authored with his faculty advisor. Together, they are learning how to build a startup company to capitalize on their innovation.

In addition to this entrepreneurial enterprise, the federal research facility responsible for the safety, security and reliability of our nation's nuclear weapons—the prestigious Lawrence Livermore National Lab—offered Brian a position after graduation. Ever the diligent student, he turned down that amazing opportunity to accept another one: a postdoctoral research position at Cal Tech, where he was selected to receive a 2-year NSF fellowship for his research proposal on “Hierarchical Elastic Metamaterials for Impact Attenuation.”

VETERANS PROGRAM



ELIZABETH SANCHEZ

Industrial Systems Engineering Major, Cerritos College

A United States Marine Corps Radio Supervisor for four years, Elizabeth was deployed to Africa and Japan.

There she provided logistical support for missions and conferences; supervision and training of communications personnel; and setup, maintenance and management of millions of dollars of tactical gear. Upon discharge, she leveraged her veteran status to become the first person in her family to attend college, where she excelled and was named VUB Scholar of the Quarter last Fall. Among the top students in all her classes, after completing her degree at Cerritos College, she plans to transfer to USC to pursue a Bachelor's.

HEALTH CAREERS PROGRAM



TELO PABLO, BA, ADN

*Rio Hondo College
BA, Welfare and Public Health, UC Berkeley*

A single father from Boyle Heights, Telo completed a rigorous dual Bachelor's degree at Berkeley in order to provide a better life for his family.

But when his youngest daughter was born without a fully developed urinary tract and was forced to spend her first 10 months in a hospital, his career changed trajectory. That experience, combined with contracting stress-induced Type II Diabetes, inspired him to pursue a future in nursing to provide comfort and care to families like his. His ultimate goal is to share his knowledge, education and life experience with students as a Nurse Educator.

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF *BUILDING THE DREAM*

ON JUNE 8, 2018!

*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!*

2016-17 ACHIEVEMENTS

- 99% of our eligible college seniors graduated
- 98% of our high school seniors graduated, compared to less than 74% 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 500 first-generation college students in California, Illinois, Texas and New York
- Provided academic programs and services to approximately 1,600 high school students and veterans
- Provided comprehensive college preparation programs to low-income youth from 10 public high schools
- Conducted 47 college/university campus visits
- 2 students selected as Gates Millennium Scholars (4-year, full-tuition scholarship)
- 1 student selected as a Questbridge Scholar (4-year, full-tuition leadership scholarship)
- 3 students selected as Dell Scholars

Our College Success Program Scholars volunteered 8,400 hours—equivalent to more than 4 years of full-time community service!

