



THE TELACU EDUCATION FOUNDATION

IMPACT REPORT 2019

In partnership with our network of committed partners for 36 years we have been transforming academic and professional outcomes for the youth of our nation's largest ethnic minority, Latinx, by continually innovating solutions that empower them to succeed!

Every year, the Foundation serves 2,000 first-generation high school, college, and graduate school students from underserved communities, some of whom are veterans.

Our *Continuum of Education*, a dynamic model created by the Foundation and comprised of the College Readiness and College Success Programs, 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, our students are equipped to graduate from high school, earn at minimum their Bachelor's, and enter the competitive 21st Century workforce as well-prepared professionals.

Historically, approximately 75% of TELACU Scholars earn degrees in a STEM-related or Business discipline. Today, an Army of TELACU Scholar Alumni more than 10,000 strong stretches across our nation and beyond. They are the researchers and engineers, the entrepreneurs and CEOs, the educators, policy-makers, and Change Agents—the leaders who are carrying on our mission of advancing the socio-economic status of underserved communities as self-sufficient, well-educated role models who will inspire and invest in the next generation of leaders.

Together we are building a future greater than our past!

FOR OVER THIRTY-SIX YEARS, 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, 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 on 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, mentoring and services—from leadership and professional development to academic advisement and career preparation—that empower them to earn their degrees and gain the skills and experience necessary to 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 scholarships and a full complement of resources that empower Graduate Fellows 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 help them more effectively transition into college, veterans receive personalized support and comprehensive services, including advisement and guidance on GI Bill benefits and the complex college admissions and application processes. Veterans are provided with access to free college preparatory courses taught by experienced instructors and Rosetta Stone courses—learning everything from language and math to typing and computer science.

CONTINUUM OF SUCCESS

2018-19 Outstanding Graduates



COLLEGE

MONICA AREVALO, BS
Mechanical Engineering
Cal Poly Pomona

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She has begun this mission by tutoring and mentoring students through the Educational Opportunity Program and the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, and also as a volunteer at Breed Street Elementary. Through an engineering internship at Parsons Corporation, she had the opportunity to practice her skills while assisting the Transportation and Rail teams and was trained on industry software, including MicroStation.

Motivated by his parents' emphasis on education, Aarón was the first in his family to graduate from high school and college and to attend graduate school.

Passionate about education, empowerment, and equity, while at Berkeley he mentored first-generation Latinx students and supported his three younger sisters' goals of attaining higher education. After college, he moved to Southeast Asia and founded an English language summer camp in Hong Kong and Vietnam before returning to Los Angeles to teach high school Spanish.



While pursuing his MBA, he served as President of the Krannert Graduate Student Association and founded the LGBTQA student group, Krannert Out. He is involved in broader diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives like the Reaching Out MBA (ROMBA) program. *Poets and Quants* named him one of 2019's "MBAs To Watch" and, recognizing the value he would add to their company, our Legacy Partner—PepsiCo—recently hired him as an HR Representative.

POST-GRAD
AARÓN RUVALCABA, MBA
Purdue University
Krannert School of Management
BA, Political Economy
UC Berkeley



POST-GRAD
MELVIN LOPEZ, JD
USC Gould School of Law
BS, Criminal Justice
CSU Long Beach

Growing up in a socio-economically disadvantaged neighborhood plagued by gangs, violence, and crime, Melvin made the conscious and conscientious decision to pursue an education that would empower him to combat issues prevalent in areas with limited resources.

Since neither of his parents had even a high school education and could not financially support his dream of higher education, he worked his way through college with jobs at New City Public Schools, LAFLA Self-Help Legal Access Center, and the Youth Policy Institute. A member of Alpha Phi Sigma—the only accredited Criminal Justice Honor Society—he was a Hale Moot Court Honors Program Quarterfinalist and Alumni Relations Chair of the Latino Law Students Association. Currently, he supports the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office as a Certified Law Clerk for the Preliminary Hearing Unit.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US BUILD OUR DREAM!!

CONTINUUM OF EDUCATION

HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNUS



ANGEL PRADO, JD
Cornell University
BA, Economics
Reed College

Associate
Crowell & Moring LLP

“I remember being in middle school and not knowing how to do long division. TELACU instilled in me the confidence that I could, and should, compete for a spot at highly selective schools.”

COLLEGE ALUMNUS



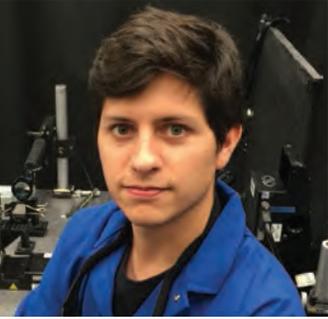
DIANA VALENZUELA, BS
*Industrial Systems
Engineering*
University of Southern
California

Technical Specialist
Edison

“I am the first Edison Scholar who will begin her professional career at Edison!”

One of only a handful of females in the field of Industrial Engineering, Diana is dedicated to mentoring female students in STEM-related fields—a mission she has already begun as the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers’ Director of Community Outreach and through her involvement with the USC Latino Alumni Association. She excelled in her studies, earning a spot on the prestigious Viterbi School of Engineering Dean’s List as well as the USC Latino Alumni Association’s highest honor, the Dr. John R. Hubbard Recognition Award. In addition to balancing her on-campus activities, studies and volunteerism at the Keck School of Medicine, she interned at Southern California Edison which led to an offer of full-time employment upon graduation!

POST-GRAD ALUMNUS



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

“I live really close to TELACU and walked by the building all the time. One day, I looked it up and applied to the College Success Program as an undergrad—now I have a PhD!”

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!

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 Latinx 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 Latinx 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.”

HEALTH CAREERS PROGRAM ALUMNUS



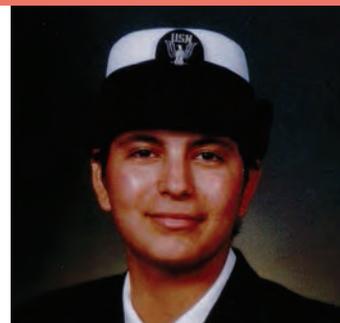
WESLEY WILLARD, BS, RN
East Los Angeles College
BS, Chemistry and Life
Science
West Point Academy

Registered Nurse
Adventist Health White
Memorial

“After West Point armed me with two Bachelor’s degrees—Chemistry and Life Science—I was deployed with Operation Iraqi Freedom.

During combat, I realized that the weapons I really needed and wanted were the skills to heal the broken and the hurting. When I came home, the Health Careers Program provided the education and training that equipped me to fulfill my true calling in life—nursing!”

VETERANS PROGRAM ALUMNUS



GUADALUPE TEERAN, BS
Public Health
CSU Los Angeles

“As a single mom, I knew that I needed a college degree to support my two sons, but I wasn’t sure how to earn one.

The Veterans Upward Bound Program not only helped me figure out what I wanted to do with the rest of my life, but also how to do it. I am so proud to have become a role model of academic excellence for my kids—my new goal is to earn my Master’s!”

2018-19 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 Latinx college students** from underserved communities 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 10 public high schools in underserved communities
- Conducted a 5-week summer college residency program as well as 28 college/university campus tours for highschoolers and veterans
- 3 high school graduates selected as Gates Millennium Scholars (4-year, full-tuition leadership scholarship)
- More than 20 high school graduates received other prestigious awards including Warren Christopher, Dell, Jose Huizar, Coca-Cola, Wells Fargo, Union Bank, and ROTC Scholarships
- **Our College Success Program Scholars volunteered more than 9,200 hours—equivalent to nearly 5 years of full-time community service!**

***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!***

FOUNDATION DEMOGRAPHICS

Moderate-Income

4%

90%
Low-Income

Business

18%

58%
STEM

24%
Other

61%
Female

39%
Male

SCHOLARS BY MAJOR

SCHOLARS BY INCOME

SCHOLARS BY GENDER