Outstanding Alumni

Thousands of current and former TELACU Scholars continue to contribute to a legacy of distinguished leadership that characterizes our College Success Program. Here are several of their stories—living testimonies of these respected leaders’ shared commitment to building a better future for our community and nation.

Mónica García, MSW
University of Southern California
BA in Chicano Studies & Political Science
UC Berkeley

Mónica served an unprecedented six terms as Board President of the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), the nation’s second-largest school district. With her bold call for “Diplomas for All,” she successfully championed innovative school reform models and led the campaign for a $7 billion school bond, the largest in US history. Garcia has aggressively fought for the implementation of pilot school models under a new reform labor contract and has impacted a fundamental shift in the District’s instructional approach to English Learners, who account for 40% of students.

Robert Aguirre, MBA
Harvard University
BA & MA in Mechanical Engineering
USC

Robert joined the Boeing Company as a Structural Analysis Engineer after earning his Masters degree. Taking on increasing levels of responsibility leading people and projects in the development of space vehicle structures and equipment, earned him a place in Boeing’s High Potential Leadership Development Program. Robert was also selected as one of only four employees to participate in the United Way Loaned Executive Program, where he helped lead fundraising on a $5M portfolio of corporate donors. A 2011 David C. Lizárraga Fellow, Robert is currently employed by the world’s first all-electric car company, Tesla Motors, with responsibility for starting and leading corporate fleet sales in North America, beginning with their award winning luxury sports sedan—the Tesla Model S.

Maria Maldonado, MPAP, MPH
USC / UC Los Angeles
BA in Psychology
USC

Maria is a Faculty member at the University of Southern California (USC) Keck School of Medicine Primary Care Physician Assistant Program, where she teaches family medicine. Upon graduating from the USC Physician Assistant Program in 2006, she served for almost 5 years as a National Health Service Corp Scholar working at Community Health Alliance of Pasadena, a primary care clinic delivering quality health care to predominantly under- and uninsured patients. For the past year, Maria worked as an Emergency Medicine Physician Assistant at the LA County + USC Medical Center. Her life mission includes contributing to the delivery of culturally sensitive health care to medically underserved populations and the empowerment of disadvantaged communities.

Eric Barajas, MBA Candidate
Purdue University
BA, Business
CSU Fullerton

As a TELACU Scholar, Eric Barajas participated in the Citi/TELACU Mentoring Program, which opened the door for him to intern at the company and eventually establish a successful career as a personal banker. Chosen as one of only nine United States-based bankers to participate in a three-month pilot program at Mexico’s Banamex, Eric personally raised $9.4 million USD and introduced a new product to a new market, earning him the ranking of number one in total revenue and new clients. Currently pursuing an MBA at Purdue University’s Krannert School of Management, he plans to leverage his education into a career in corporate finance and operations for a Fortune 500 company.

TELACU Education Foundation
College Success Program

Administered by the TELACU Education Foundation, the College Success Program (Program) was created in 1983 to develop and empower new generations of leaders in the communities it serves. The Program is funded by TELACU and the generous contributions of our partners—corporations, colleges and universities, non-profit organizations and individuals—who have joined us over the past 30 years in advancing educational opportunities for our community.

The TELACU Education Foundation reserves the right to make the final selection of Award recipients based upon, but not limited to, the criteria described in these application guidelines.

More Than Just Financial Support

Faced with the new rigors of college life, the future leaders of our community need more than just financial support during their collegiate years. To help ensure that TELACU Scholars make the successful transition from high school to college and, ultimately, into the workplace, the Program integrates four inseparable components: Financial Resources; Academic, Leadership, Personal, and Professional Development Sessions (Sessions); College Advisement and Career Guidance; and Giving Back.

Through participation in the Sessions, which is a required component of the Program, TELACU Scholars are equipped to successfully navigate the college experience through study skills and time management workshops, motivational exercises, counseling, and leadership development and training. Other elements of the Program include:

- One-on-One Guidance
- Career Strategy Development
- Financial Empowerment
- Professional Development & Workforce Entry Preparation
- Graduate School Preparation
- Internship Opportunities
- Mentoring
- Parental Involvement

Workforce Preparation Academy (WPA)

In addition to these elements of the Program, the WPA provides targeted support to Scholars so that they not only graduate from college, but graduate with an offer for employment or with an internship in the career of their choice.

WPA services include:

- Résumé & Cover Letter Workshops
- Mock Interviews
- Professional Brand Development
- Transferable Skills Development
- Intro to Business Etiquette
- Access to Industry Professionals
- Internships & Employment Opportunities

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must:

- Be a first-generation college student
- Be from a low to moderate income household
- Have a 2.5 GPA or higher
- Attend a 4-year college or university
- Be enrolled full-time for the entire 2016-2017 academic year
- Attend mandatory Sessions throughout the academic year, most will be held on Saturday mornings (Required only for students attending local area schools. Non-local students will receive information provided at Sessions via webinar)
- California Applicants: Be a permanent resident of an underserved community within the counties of Los Angeles, Orange, or San Bernardino, such as East Los Angeles, Boyle Heights, Baldwin Park, Bell Gardens, Commerce, Huntington Park, City of Los Angeles, Montebello, Ontario, Pico Rivera, Pomona, South Gate, Santa Ana, and San Bernardino
- Texas Applicants: Be a permanent resident of San Antonio, Austin, Laredo, Edinburg, or Rio Grande City
• Illinois Applicants: Be a permanent resident of the Greater Chicagoland Area
• New York Applicants: Be a permanent resident of the state of New York

Priority will be given to:
• Applicants majoring in the fields of Business and STEM—Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. The Foundation prioritizes these disciplines to focus available resources on addressing the need for more professionals in these fields
• Applicants attending institutions that provide matching funds (listed on last page) and/or are located in Southern California
• Current College Success Program participants

Selection Criteria
A select pool of applicants will be invited to interview with the Program Interview Committee, which consists of representatives from our community, alumni, and corporate and educational partners. Candidates will be ranked according to their ability to demonstrate a combination of the following:
• Extracurricular involvement exhibiting a commitment to the community
• Academic achievement
• A need for financial and academic support in order to successfully complete a post-secondary degree
• Proven leadership within student, on-campus, or community organizations

Complete applications, together with all required documents, must be postmarked no later than January 29, 2016 for renewing Scholars, and February 26, 2016 for new applicants.

General Program Information
Award amounts range from $500 to $5,000, which include any matching funds from the college or university. Applicants entering college as a first-year student in Fall 2016 are eligible to apply for an Award that can be renewed for up to four years.

Criteria for Renewing an Award
Scholars currently enrolled in the Program are eligible to renew their Award if they:
• Maintained a minimum 2.75 GPA
• Attended school full-time for the entire academic year
• Attended all events and Sessions conducted by the Program (Scholars attending school out of state or the local area are not required to attend, but will be required to complete periodic assignments after watching webinars)
• Volunteered a minimum of 20 hours of community service
• Plan to be enrolled full-time for the entire 2016-17 academic year
• Submit a renewal application and participate in a renewal interview

Additional Opportunities
TOYOTA/TELACU Award
(Students are nominated for these awards by the Interview Committee)
• TOYOTA Business Award
• TOYOTA STEM Award
• TOYACU Community Leadership Award
• TOYOTA Education Award
• TOYOTA Arts Award

Graduate Opportunities
David C. Lizárraga Fellowship, Sponsored by TOYOTA
Sponsored by TOYOTA, Fellowships are awarded to selected students pursuing a Master’s in Business Administration or Engineering, who demonstrate the potential and commitment to advance TELACU’s mission of building self-sufficient communities through economic empowerment. Individuals pursuing advanced degrees in other fields may also be considered.

Purdue University Partnership
Purdue University’s Krannert School of Management has made educational opportunities and financial resources available for qualified candidates who demonstrate academic excellence, robust leadership and work experience, a strong sense of motivation and career direction, and an interest in pursuing an MBA from this top-ranked business school.

A specific Eligibility Form is required and can be downloaded at www.TELACU.com. For more information, please contact the College Success Program at collegesuccess@TELACU.com or at 323.721.1655.

Health Careers Program
(Requires a specific application and preliminary interview)
In partnership with White Memorial Medical Center, the Foundation provides community college nursing school students with a full complement of support services and resources, including financial resources of up to $9,000, for book, tuition and living expenses.
Foundation Partners
The Foundation is funded by TELACU and the generous contributions of our partners—corporations, non-profit organizations and individuals—who have joined us over the past 30 years in empowering new generations of leaders.

Colleges & Universities
Following is a partial list of colleges and universities attended by TELACU Scholars. Eligibility is not limited to students attending these institutions. However, priority will be given to applicants attending institutions that provide matching funds (denoted by an asterisk) and/or are located in Southern California.

Azusa Pacific University*
BIOLA University*
Cal Poly Pomona*
California Institute of Technology
Chapman University
Claremont Colleges
- Claremont McKenna College
- Harvey Mudd College
- Pitzer College
- Pomona College
- Scripps College
Cornell University
CSU Channel Islands
CSU Dominguez Hills*
CSU Fullerton*
CSU Long Beach*
CSU Los Angeles*
CSU Northridge*
CSU San Bernardino*
East Los Angeles College
Harvard University
Loyola Marymount University*
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Mount St. Mary's College*
Notre Dame
Occidental College*
Pepperdine University
Purdue University
(Krannert School of Management)
Rio Hondo College
San Diego State University
Stanford University
UC Berkeley
UC Davis
UC Irvine*
UC Los Angeles*
UC Riverside*
UC San Diego
UC Santa Barbara*
UC Santa Cruz
University of Illinois at Chicago*
University of La Verne*
University of Redlands*
University of Southern California*
University of Texas-Pan American
Whittier College

About TELACU
Established in 1968, TELACU is the largest Community Development Corporation in the United States. Utilizing one of the most successful approaches to community and economic development, TELACU focuses its assets on empowering the lives of individuals and families within the communities it serves.

Since 1983, the TELACU Education Foundation has been advancing communities through education. Each year we provide Awards to college students in California, Illinois, Texas and New York. We also annually provide academic programs and guidance to 1,600 middle and high school students, nursing school students and veterans. The success of the Foundation is best summarized by the numbers: 99% of TELACU Scholars earn their college degree and are prepared to make lasting, positive impact across all areas of society.

For more information, please contact:
The College Success Program at collegesuccess@TELACU.com or at 323.721.1655

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A pioneering institution committed to service, empowerment, advancement, and the creation of self-sufficiency.