



The Hispanic Community Affairs Council (HCAC) is a volunteer-driven, non-profit organization with a proud 33-year history. HCAC is dedicated to young Hispanics throughout Alameda County who are interested in pursuing a higher education. HCAC believes that investing in our future leaders is the key to a stronger community.

**Our Mission** is to promote the value of education, cultural diversity and community involvement.

**Our Vision** is to invest in the higher education of future Hispanic leaders to build a strong community.

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## ¿Que Pasa?

The Hispanic Community Affairs Council  
Newsletter Summer 2015



### 33rd Annual Scholarship Awards Luncheon

*Sixty-six students received HCAC scholarships to continue their education at colleges throughout the country and locally.*

More than 300 attendees gathered at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel to honor students selected from Alameda County. Some students were newly minted high school graduates and others graduating from community college to four-year universities, or students who were continuing their undergraduate or master's degrees.

Students were selected based on academic excellence, economic need and leadership and service to their community. Many are the first in their families to attend college and they are aware that their success will ease the path for those that follow.

This has been a challenging year for college students, as tuition costs and fees have escalated. The economic impact has had a disproportionate affect on low-income families. In order to meet these challenges, many of these students have had to make great sacrifices, but they did not give up.

We are making an investment today that will reap dividends for our country in the future as they take their places as leaders in their communities.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank you to everyone who made the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Scholarship Award Luncheon a success! With the generosity of the community, local businesses, organizations, and the philanthropy of a group of unique individuals and corporations, a total of \$88,000 was raised to award sixty-six scholarships to a group of talented and well-deserved students. Congratulations to all the HCAC scholarship recipients!

I'm very pleased with the progress HCAC has made over the years. The Board has embraced technology to take HCAC to the next level. You can now buy tickets on-line for our events and even make on-going donations. HCAC appreciates the feedback received on how organized and streamlined the registration process was for the Scholarship Awards Luncheon. This was a result of our volunteers and new on-line registration process.

Please join us on Facebook and visit our website at [www.hcac-ac.org](http://www.hcac-ac.org).

Again, thank you for supporting HCAC and helping Hispanic students throughout Alameda County pursue and complete a higher education!



*Aracelia G. Esparza  
President*

## STUDENT KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



***Elena Gonzalez***

I will be attending the University of San Diego in the fall and majoring in Biochemistry.

In my freshmen year of high school, my mother passed away after a year and a half of battling an inoperable brain tumor. Losing her has been the hardest thing that I have ever gone through. My mother's passing could have easily destroyed all motivation to continue working hard. Instead, I have chosen to honor her life by continuing to push myself to reach the higher education that my mom always wanted me to achieve. She is my inspiration and my hero.

In losing my mother, I gained my biggest supporter, my dad. He has dedicated his life to continue the dream that he and my mother had to give their children an opportunity to achieve a higher education.

My dream is to become a surgeon and to help improve the quality of life for others. My mission is to discover treatments for inoperable tumors so that no family experiences what mine did. I want to open my own medical clinic to provide support for those who do not have access to the resources they need to receive the medical attention that every person has the right to.

I want people to hear my story and know that no matter how difficult life may get, there is always something to look forward to. We must always continue to push our limits and to strive for success. I especially want to thank the sponsors who have

supported us by investing in our education and in our future.

**Alex Contreras-Garcia**



I am majoring in Political Science and want to teach in an underprivileged high school. My father died when I was about 7 years old. During my childhood, my mother worked 2-3 jobs at a time to support my brother and me. Even with the jobs she held, money was tight.

I learned that in Middle School kids could be cruel and relentless. During this time, our living conditions were not too good. As a result, I got depressed and I wanted to give up.

However, my Art teacher, Ms. Moreno, took an interest in me. She reached out to me and asked me to come back to help her with an after school art program. One day, I voiced to her how hard school was without a computer and the essentials for school. She looked at me and smiled, while unplugging her computer to hand it to me. She told me, "Life is hard and it probably won't get easy anytime soon but I will help you with what I can to make it less hard. Just keep going." She is and will be the definition of kindness to me.

There were more like her who embodied this kindness. I see it in my Sociology Professor Christina Mendoza, my English Professor Ms. Land, and Puente Counselor Mrs. Genera. I see it in my partner Ruben, who shows me unconditional love and support. I see it in my mother, who showed me through action what perseverance really is. And I see this kindness and generosity of HCAC who helps students like me come back from a hard time. Thank you!

## **Dr. Arnold Chávez - 33-Year HCAC Member and a Founder HONORED**

On May 6, 2015, Dr. Arnold Chávez was inducted into the Educators Hall of Fame from his alma mater, Adams State University, Alamosa, CO.



The Adams State University (ASU) Educator's Hall of Fame recognizes prepared educators at any level who have made a significant contribution to the field of education. This award recognizes excellent educators in their fields of expertise and their demonstration of high moral character.

Dr. Arnold Chávez is now the Director of the Male Involvement Program (MIP) for the Alameda County Public Health Department where he is a part of a joint effort in addressing a myriad of health and safety issues impacting the diverse communities of Alameda County and ensuring each community's access to available resources through education, community development and information dissemination.

Dr. Chávez, through different organizations, speaks to parents about developing better parenting and communication skills for a stronger family unit and more confident and successful children. He strongly believes that "The family is the building block for whatever solidarity there is in society."

He is also an Advisory Board member for HCAC and the Mentoring Center. He earned his Education Doctorate (Ed.D) from the University of Northern Colorado and his BA and MA from Adams State College and Master of Education from Antioch University.

He began his career as the Director of the Colorado Migrant Council in Alamosa, Colorado and over the years has also worked as an elementary school teacher at a Reservation for Native Americans in Dulce, New Mexico, was a Ford Fellow, Executive Director of College Assistance Migrant Program, Professor of Urban Studies and Education at Metropolitan State College in Denver, Colorado, Director of Alameda Technical College, and Executive Director of Alameda County Court Appointed Special Advocate program.

He has focused his efforts on education and community development to facilitate access of the available resources to those in need. He is very proud of being one of the Founders of an organization (HCAC) that has given educational scholarships to Latinos in Alameda County for over 30 years.

***Congratulations Dr. Arnold Chávez!***

### **In Memory of Jose Dueñas**



We are saddened by the passing of Jose Dueñas, former Port of Oakland, Director of Human Resources and

Administration. Our hearts go out to Mr. Dueñas' family, friends and colleagues for their loss.

Mr. Dueñas was a highly revered community leader who was born and raised in Oakland and whose expertise in international trade, business, politics and community organizing resonated throughout Alameda County, California and globally.

His professional background included serving as a former administrator of the Port of Oakland, the former CEO of the Bay Area World Trade Center where he

coordinated trade missions to over 40 countries, and former CEO of the Alameda Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Jose's commitment to community involvement included leadership roles to address issues of social and economic equity in support of the Latino and communities of color.

In lieu of flowers, the family of Jose Dueñas requests that donations be made to the Jose Dueñas Memorial Scholarship. The Hispanic Community Affairs Council of Alameda County (HCAC), under the direction of his closest friends and associates has established a memorial scholarship in honor of Jose Dueñas. This scholarship will be awarded every year to a Latino/a student in Alameda County, who most exhibits commitment, leadership skills and participation in the Latino community.

*HCAC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, No. 94-2951649. Checks may be made out to HCAC and mailed to P.O. Box 3151, Hayward CA 94540. HCAC will deposit funds donated to this scholarship in a separate account and disbursements will be made each year, providing funds are available. For more information regarding the scholarship selection process by HCAC, please visit [www.hcac-ac.org](http://www.hcac-ac.org).*

*NOTE: Portions of this remembrance were taken from taken from remarks by Board of Port Commissioners, President Yee on June 25, 2015.*

### **Educational Scholarships – \$5 million to help immigrants pay for college tuition**

*By Sharon Noguchi  
[Noguchisnoguchi@mercurynews.com](mailto:Noguchisnoguchi@mercurynews.com)  
(Excerpted from article by Ms Noguchi)*

Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg announced Wednesday that he and his wife, Priscilla Chan, will donate \$5 million to a scholarship fund to help hundreds of immigrants in the Bay Area attend

college. The promise of their new donation has allowed [The-Dream.US](#) fund to offer scholarships for Bay Area “dreamers” — students whose parents brought them into the country illegally as children. The infusion will fund 400 scholarships to Bay Area students.

The donation is the couple’s second to [The-Dream.US](#). A year ago the couple’s Startup: Education organization committed \$2.5 million to the fund. “We ought to welcome smart and hardworking young people from every nation, and to help everyone in our society achieve their full potential,” Zuckerberg wrote on his Facebook page, announcing the donation. “If we help more young immigrants climb the ladder to new opportunities, then our country will make greater progress.”

The newest commitment is part of \$120 million Zuckerberg and Chan announced last year that they would give to education in underserved Bay Area communities. The new infusion will be spread over five years.

The fund added Evergreen and De Anza colleges, San Jose State, San Francisco State and Cal State East Bay as partners. UC Santa Cruz was one of the original participants. The purpose is to help students who are homegrown from the Bay Area.

The amounts awarded depend on need and cost of attendance, but are capped at \$12,500 for an associate degree and \$25,000 for a bachelor’s degree. Awards supplement Cal Grants and other scholarships, and are calculated to cover tuition and school fees, although in California some of the award may be used for books, supplies, transportation and room and board.

Applicants for the coming year must be those who are eligible for the Obama administration’s program that temporarily

delayed the deportation of immigrants whose parents brought them here illegally when they were children. They must be high school seniors or graduates, or community college graduates intending to transfer to a four-year partner college. Those already enrolled in a four-year college are not eligible.

## Student Loan Protection

Senator Elizabeth Warren took the Department of Education to task recently for what she called a lack of transparency and failure to protect students from dangerous student loan servicers and for-profit colleges.

Senator Warren called for external checks to be placed on the department, including moving the student loan complaint system from the department to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and granting borrowers the right to take legal action against loan contractors.

The sharp-tongued remarks came as part of a broad-ranging policy speech on education at the American Federation of Teachers in Washington, where Ms. Warren laid out a plan for making college more affordable and relieving growing student debt. She also renewed calls to refinance outstanding student loans and reform the federal Pell grant program.

College affordability and student debt have become a leading topic for both Democrats and Republicans on the presidential campaign trail in recent weeks. Ms. Warren also called for bipartisan collaboration on the issue ahead of the debate over the Higher Education Act, which expired in 2013.



**Empowerment  
Through Education**  
*Living A Dream.  
Building A Future*

## THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

The success of HCAC's Scholarship Program would not be possible without the partnership, participation and generosity of our sponsors. We thank you!

### **\$10,000**

*La Comisión Honorífica Mexicana*

### **\$5,000 or more**

*Kaiser Permanent*

*Albert C & Bertha P. Markstein Foundation & Markstein Sales Company*

### **\$2,500 or more**

*Atkinson, Adelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo  
Dan Apodaca Scholarship and Ana Apodaca  
Dr. Nina & Fernando Genera  
Hon. Richard Valle & Tri-CED Community Recycling  
Yolanda Baldovinos & Fred Wright Lopez*

### **\$1,000 or more**

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Honorable Sucky Collazo  
UA Local 342  
Viola Gonzalez & Penn Hughes*

### **\$500 or more**

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Pablo Fiene*

**For Sponsorship Opportunities**, please contact Bettina Flores at (510) 303-6643 or [bettina4335@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bettina4335@sbcglobal.net)

HCAC is a volunteer-driven nonprofit organization with no paid staff or consultants. All work is done by members of the boards of directors and friends of HCAC. We are proud that **100% of all contributions to the scholarship fund goes directly to the students.** Last year we awarded 61 college scholarships in the amount of \$81,375 to deserving Latino students in Alameda County.

We hope you will join us in this endeavor and **help us meet our goal of raising \$95,000 by sponsoring one of our students.** A contribution of \$1500 will sponsor a student attending a four-year college and \$750 will sponsor a two-year college student. However, a contribution of any amount will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for joining us as we honored and celebrated our outstanding Scholarship Recipients!



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