



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
Spring 2016*

HCAC 34th ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS LUNCHEON

**Friday - May 6, 2016
11:30 am to 1:30 pm**

**Doubletree by Hilton Hotel
39900 Balentine Drive, Newark, CA**

Join us in celebrating our outstanding scholarship recipients as we honor them for their academic achievements and community service.

Guests may purchase tickets online at

[https://hcac-
ac.ejoinme.org/MyPages/2016
HCACScholarshipLuncheon](https://hcac-ac.ejoinme.org/MyPages/2016HCACScholarshipLuncheon)

Or contact:

Dr. Arnold Chavez at 510-331-1438

OR

Pedro Naranjo at 510-388-8983

**For Sponsorship Opportunities,
please contact**

Bettina Flores at 510-303-6643 or

bettina4335@sbcglobal.net

**HCAC
P.O. Box 3151, Hayward, CA 94540
www.hcac-ac.org**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The month of March for HCAC is historically an "action" month. That is exactly how our HCAC Board Members and energetic volunteers have been diligently working to advance the 2016 scholarship process.

Currently the HCAC Scholarship Committee, and HCAC volunteers, led by **Yosaira Espinoza** and **Sandra Genera**, have reviewed applications, determined financial need, as well as read over one hundred personal statements. The next step is interviewing over 60 students who qualified for a scholarship.

Our HCAC volunteers work hard to determine our awardees and then to celebrate with the finalists and their parents at our 34th Annual HCAC Scholarship Luncheon on May 6. That is when HCAC will really enjoy its "parade" of students as they receive their HCAC Scholarships. Mark your calendar to attend our celebration and please visit our website at www.hcac-ac.org for details.

As we spring forward, we are reminded that spring is a time of renewal as well as a time for a "fresh start." HCAC Board Members recognize that this time of renewal on our part is our opportunity to assist Hispanic/Latino students in having a "fresh start" as they pursue their educational goals and fulfill their dreams.

HCAC continues towards meeting our goals beyond what we awarded in 2015, which was a total of \$87,750 to 65 deserving Hispanic/Latino students. We invite you to join us in this endeavor and consider sponsoring a student from our community with \$750 for a student attending community college and \$1,500 for a student enrolled in a four-year college or university.

This is worth noting: "No one is more cherished in this world than someone who lightens the burden of another."

Angelina Reyes
HCAC President

MORE DONORS NEEDED FOR HCAC SCHOLARSHIPS

As never before, college today offers a path to security and fulfillment. Yet it is increasingly out of reach for many students, especially minority and low-income students. Today, with the high school completion rate among young Latinos at a new high, more young Latinos than ever are eligible to attend college and HCAC is committed to helping as many deserving, qualified students as we can.

As an example, Elena Gonzalez, one of our past recipients is attending the University of San Diego, majoring in Biochemistry. She has overcome many challenges including losing her mother in her freshmen year of high school. "Losing her has been the hardest thing that I have ever gone through," Elena stated, "and this could have easily destroyed all motivation to continue working hard." Instead, she has chosen to honor her mother's life by continuing to push herself to reach her goals. Elena is grateful to HCAC and our sponsors "who have supported us by investing in our education and in our future."

HCAC is unique in that almost 50% of contributions are made by individuals. We would like to thank and acknowledge the following who have supported HCAC for many years and have already pledged a contribution for this year. They are committed to helping us meet our goal of raising \$90,000 for our students this year.

- **Yolanda and Fred Baldovinos**
- **Dr. Nina & Fernando Genera**
- **Jon and Lynn Orellana**
- **Ana Apodaca**
- **Arnold and Carmen Chavez**
- **Dr. Susan Cota**
- **Dawn Graeff**
- **John and Carmen Meléndez**
- **Dr. Sherman & Alison Lewis**
- **Dr. Martha Kanter**

HCAC APPOINTS TWO NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The HCAC Board recently appointed two new members to its Board of Directors. Please welcome:

Elizabeth Morales



Many moons ago I was awarded the HCAC scholarship when I was a student at Chabot College (and proud Puentista), where I then transferred to the University of California, Riverside where I earned my Bachelors of Arts in Chicano Studies. I knew early on in my academic career that I wanted to go come back to my Hayward community and support our youth, the way others had supported me.

Today, I am the Interim Director of the program Educational Talent Search, which is a federally funded pre-college program that serves Hayward and San Lorenzo Unified Districts. I am truly to happy to be able to work in the same schools and community I grew up in and now as a board member of HCAC, I will have the opportunity to continue to support our Chican/Latin young people as they pursue their dreams of an higher education. Si Se Puede!

Liz also served as Academic Counselor at Ohlone Community College and as a Prevention Specialist for the Community Prevention of Alcohol-Related Problems in Hayward. She received her BA from UC Riverside and her Master's degree from San Jose State University.

Jason Enrique Arenas



Jason has dedicated himself to working in socio-economically disenfranchised communities in the Bay Area over the last 12

years. He is a native of Los Angeles and first generation Colombian-American, moved to San Francisco to obtain his Bachelor's Degree in Humanities with an emphasis on Culture, Ecology and Sustainable Communities from New College of California. Jason was raised to always think critically and to fight for what is socially just.

Jason feels his past and current work as an educator and advocate for youth and families aligns with the mission of HCAC. He was a recipient of the Hayward HERO Community Award in 2013 for his work in the Cherryland neighborhood of Hayward. He is currently a San Francisco Foundation Daniel E. Koshland Fellow working in the Jackson Triangle-Harder Tennyson Corridor neighborhood of Hayward. He serves as the Parent and Community Engagement Specialist with the Alameda County Office of Education, where he provides professional development, coaching and technical assistance to school, district and community leaders across Alameda County using a strengths-based approach. Jason is a proud father to his daughter Isabella and husband to his wife Alicia.

SUZANNE BARBA INDUCTED INTO THE ALAMEDA COUNTY WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME

Suzanne Barba, a 30-year HCAC Board member and current VP, was inducted into the Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame for Community Service on March 19, 2016.



Suzanne has always been devoted to causes that seek to make the community, a better place to live. She is also a long time board member with the League of Women Voters, Eden Area, and has served two terms as the group's president.

Over the years, her activism has supported many important causes including good schools, healthy neighborhoods, educational opportunities for minority students and first-rate health care in the Eden Area.

She retired from the Alameda County Office of Education, where she served as Public Information Officer for 14 years. Suzanne also was elected and served on the Eden Hospital District Board of Directors for 16 years. With HCAC, Suzanne has devoted her efforts to provide scholarships to Hispanic students to further their education.

Over the years, Suzanne's tireless community activism has been an energizing force that has inspired many to give back to their community. It also led to her being named Woman of the Year for California's 18th Assembly District in 2003.

SCHOLARSHIPS for HISPANIC STUDENTS

More than 50 million people in the United States identify as Hispanic, making the growing Latino population by far the largest minority group in the country. Though there are continued cultural, economic, and societal barriers to educational success, students of Hispanic descent are making significant gains.

Graduation rates among Latino students jumped 10 percentage points between 2006 and 2010, according to the National Center for Education Statistics, and the number of Latinos enrolled in postsecondary education has grown from 2.9 percent in 1972 to 16.5 percent in 2011, based on Pew Research Center analysis.

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, 63% of jobs will require a post-secondary degree by 2018. Therefore helping Hispanics, the fastest growing minority group in the nation, graduate from college is essential.

One of the biggest hurdles for Hispanics who have their sights set on attending college is the hefty price tag of education. Thankfully, HCAC is one of the organizations geared specifically toward the Hispanic population that are helping offset the high cost of postsecondary education through scholarships.

In its thirty-three year history, HCAC has awarded approximately \$1.6 million dollars in scholarships to over 2,200 young men and women throughout Alameda County. One hundred percent of all donations to the scholarship fund are awarded to students.

THANK YOU NOTES FROM PREVIOUS SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES

Dear HCAC Members, I would like to thank all the donors who contributed to making this award possible; especially the HCAC board members who have given their time, heart and commitment to helping students like me. Year after year, it has made a huge difference in my ability to achieve an education. Thank you!

Marisa Samano Jimison

Dear HCAC Board of Directors, I am a scholarship recipient this school year. I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for choosing me as a scholarship recipient. I have one more year to obtain my Ph.D. in Education from UC Davis. It is the generosity and support from organizations such as the HCAC that I have gotten this far in my educational career. My goal is to engage in research that works toward increasing the number of Latina/o students that obtain degrees. Thank you again!

Yanira Madrigal-Garcia

HCAC OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Hayward City Clerk - Retired

Suzanne Barba – Vice President
Public Relations, Retired

Dawn Graeff – Secretary
Human Resources Management, Retired

Bettina Flores – Treasurer
Special Events Consultant

Yosaria Espinoza – Scholarship Chair
Alameda County Office of Education

Ana Apodaca
Kaiser Permanente, Community & Government Relations
Manager

Dr. Susan Cota
Chabot-Las Positas Community College District
Chancellor Emerita

Sandra Genera
Chabot College Counselor/Puente Project Coordinator

Pedro Naranjo
Alameda County Health Care Services Agency

Elsa Saenz
Casey Family Programs

Hector Ruiz Topete
Career Readiness Program

Elizabeth Morales
Chabot College, Community Outreach

Jason Arenas
Parent & Community Engagement Specialist
Alameda County Office of Education

HCAC ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

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Alameda County Social Services Agency, Retired

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HCAC Founder

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