



## **2017 Ric Gonzalez Memorial Foundation Scholarship Recipients**



**Agustin Guerrero-Flores**  
Cesar Chavez Academy

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**Cesar Chavez Academy High School**

Agustin Guerrero-Flores carries a 3.98 GPA and is ranked second out of his class of 173 at Cesar Chavez Academy High School.

His teacher describes him as hardworking and trusting in his letter of recommendation.

He writes, "Agustin is a very hardworking and motivated student who masters content well. He is also liked by everyone in the school, both teachers and students."

"I see my school as more than a school, I see it as a family where we all cooperate and work to create a better community," Agustin wrote in a submission essay.

In addition to his school work, Agustin co-captain's the school's robotics team, helps organize parent meetings, is the vice-president of his class and tutors fellow students.

After graduation, Agustin would like to study mathematics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



**Alvaro Resto**  
Western High School

**Alvaro Resto**  
**Western International High School**

Alvaro Resto of Western International High School described how the lessons and stories of his late father, his role model, led him to the realization of his dream to be a physicist.

“I would constantly think about what he taught me about the rocky beaches of Puerto Rico,” Alvaro wrote in a submission essay. “When I finally went to Puerto Rico... I visited the rocky beaches my father had told me about and I stared at the waves for hours on end. That was when I realized that I wanted to know why and how the waves were crashing against the rocks and in what pattern they were doing it if there was a pattern. Ever since then I have wanted to become a physicist to study the beauty of the world my father had taught me about.”

Alvaro wants to attend the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston.

“Alvaro has a very clear vision of his future targets and plans and works very methodically, with great focus, to meet these goals,” his science teacher wrote in his recommendation letter.



**Armando Contreras**  
Cesar Chavez Academy

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**Cesar Chavez Academy High School**

Armando Contreras, a Cesar Chavez Academy High School student, plans to attend the University of Michigan after graduation and study to become an attorney.

“I wish to contribute to the world whether it be by researching and furthering science or improving our living habits. I will find a way to keep a reservoir for animals and

try to convince businesses to convert to a safer fuel source,” Armando wrote in a submission essay.

In addition to his studies, Armando has been a part of his schools Cross Country, Wrestling, and Track & Field teams, is an active member of the after school Medical Club and holds a part time job.

“As a current Honor Roll student, Armando has shown that he is the epitome of what strong work ethic can do for a student,” wrote Armando’s teacher in his letter of recommendation.



**Daniella Cabral**  
Notre Dame Preparatory

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**Notre Dame Preparatory School**

A student at Notre Dame Preparatory School, Daniella Cabral would like to continue her studies at the University of Michigan after graduation, majoring in Economics.

“I am so glad and thankful to have been raised in a family where I was taught the value of not taking easy alternatives in favor of hard work,” Daniella wrote in a submission essay. “By working hard, the reward shall be greater.”

In addition to her studies, Daniella volunteers her time at the South Oakland Shelter and assists in coaching at the NDP Tennis Camp.

“I have a part-time job teaching tennis but contribute that money in buying supplies for my summer volunteer projects, helping an orphanage in need in the Dominican Republic and teaching underprivileged Dominican kids computer science skills,” Daniella wrote in a submission essay.

During her time at Notre Dame Preparatory School, Daniella has earned a 3.93 GPA.

“Daniella is an excellent student and a kind, caring, and warm individual,” Daniella’s teacher wrote in his recommendation.



**Gina Gonzalez**  
Avondale High School

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Gina Gonzalez attends Avondale High School, works 24 hours a week and volunteers her time with Kids against Hunger, Salvation Army and American House.

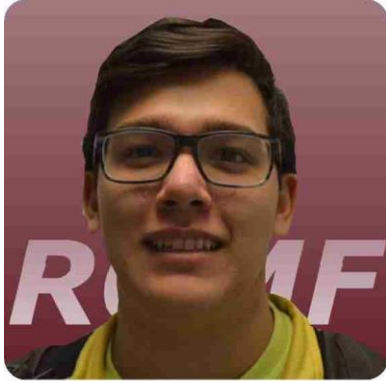
“Not everyone knows where they are going to get their next meal from or how they are going to pay their next bill,” Gina wrote in a submission essay, “everyone, young and old, can make a difference if their heart is in the right place.”

After graduation, Gina plans to attend Oakland University.

“I want to make my parents proud of me by graduating from a university and becoming a Nurse Practitioner,” Gina wrote.

And her determination shows, according to her teacher Jennifer Cramer.

“Gina is determined to set her path for success by prioritizing her goals,” Jennifer wrote in her recommendation letter.



**Jacob Ensinia**  
Lutheran High School North

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Jacob Ensinia will graduate this year from Lutheran High School North and hopes to attend Oakland University studying technology.

“My mother always says the world is run by the people who show up, so I better show up,” Jacob wrote in an application essay. “I always finish what I start, I can achieve anything I put my mind to and that is because of the influence and driving force that my mother and grandfather have had on me.”

Along with attending school, Jacob holds a part time job and volunteers at Living Word Lutheran Church and Feeding Children Everywhere.

In another essay, Jacob wrote, “Service and volunteering is just something I have been brought up in and it is as natural as breathing... There is nothing that feels as wonderful as giving back, the benefits far outweigh the work.”



**Jessica Mandujano**  
Western High School

**Jessica Mandujano**  
**Western International High School**

“Jessica has demonstrated an outgoing personality, drive, determination, and an ability to succeed,” wrote one of Jessica Mandujano’s teachers, Daniel Martinez, in his letter of recommendation. “[She] has acquired numerous avenues of learning, self-development, community service, and leadership.”

A student at Western International High School, Jessica volunteers with The Youth Connection, Grace in Action and Southwest Solutions in her spare time.

After graduation, Jessica would like to study criminal justice at the University of Chicago.

“You can do anything as long as you work hard and follow through,” Jessica wrote in a submission essay. “Fear is a terrifying word but sometimes that’s all it is, just a word.”



**Julian Saldana**  
Melvindale High School

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**Melvindale High School**

Julian Saldana would like to attend Michigan State University and study Kinesiology after his graduation from Melvindale High School.

“School is a place of facing challenges and defeating them. My biggest opponent was me,” Julian wrote in a submission essay.

During his senior year, Julian faced a tough course load including advanced classes and captaining the varsity wrestling and baseball teams. But he got through it.

“I said to Julian Saldana that he can do anything he puts his mind to,” Julian wrote. “I had practice every day from 3-6 which made me drained and not wanting to do my homework but by defeating myself I was able to overcome the exhaustion, which led me to a 3.8 semester GPA in the fall and a 3.5 GPA in the spring as well as MVP awards in both sports.”

“I am Mexican and Puerto Rican and I am very proud to be,” Julian wrote in another submission essay. “Coming from the Taino and Aztec Indian tribes, I know I am destined to do great things.”



**Nancy Guox-Perez**

Cesar Chavez Academy

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**Cesar Chavez Academy High School**

Nancy Guox-Perez is a senior at Cesar Chavez Academy High School. After graduation, Nancy would like to attend Michigan State University where she will study to be a Veterinarian.

Nancy will be the first member of her family to go to college, and she hopes to be a role model for her brothers and sisters.

“I want to be someone who they can look up to and think, ‘If she can do it, I can do it as well,’” wrote Nancy in a submission essay.

In addition to maintaining a 3.7 GPA, Nancy works 20-30 hours a week and participates in multiple sports.



**Osbaldo Lopez**

Western High School

**Osbaldo Lopez**

**Western International High School**

“Osbaldo is an intelligent and thoughtful young man who is committed to his community and making a difference in the world,” wrote Osbaldo Lopez’s English teacher in her letter of recommendation.

A student at Western International High School, Osbaldo spends his spare time working as a roofer and volunteering with the Western International VIBE Dream Team.

After graduation, he hopes to attend University of Michigan where he would like to study Business.



“If I score low or if I fall in a certain way, I keep working smart/hard because if those 99 fails lead to the 1 big doorway to my success, by all means I will do everything in my power until I get it right,” Osbaldo wrote in a submission essay.



**Rodolfo Aguilar-Fernandez**

Notre Dame Preparatory

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Enrolled in the International Baccalaureate Program at Notre Dame Preparatory School and a national level swimmer, Rodolfo Aguilar-Fernandez plans to study business at the University of Michigan and hopes to eventually become a lawyer.

“He wishes to enter into a school of his choosing that will mesh both goals of high academic and high athletic success,” Rodolfo’s teacher wrote in his letter of recommendation. “He takes nothing for granted and has a tremendous work ethic.”

During his time at Notre Dame Preparatory School, Rodolfo’s hard work has earned him a 3.88 GPA.

In addition to his studies and swimming, Rodolfo is a youth leader assistant at his church and a peer leader at his school.