



2008 Scholarship Recipients (6 Awarded)



Orlando Castro
Notre Dame
Preparatory School

Attending Notre Dame Preparatory School in Pontiac on a scholarship from the “Building Bridges” program, Orlando Castro carries a 3.065 GPA. In his essay on an academic challenge Orlando cites, “he faced and had to overcome his jump from a public academy in Pontiac to Notre Dame”. Despite having received the principal’s award twice and making the honor roll, he still came to Notre Dame nearly two years behind the curriculum. He overcame the challenge by working with his parents and teachers, signing up for tutoring and being “totally dedicated to my studies”. Orlando is undecided about his field of study in college but is focused on attending the University of Michigan Dearborn campus. His community service work includes time with the local food bank, cooking for the Baldwin Soup Kitchen and donating and boxing food for a local food drive. It was at the food drive Orlando witnessed children taking extra food during lunch and putting it in their pockets. “When asked why they did this they responded that it was to eat later because they would not eat again until lunchtime the following day”. While he felt sadness for the children it made him “very happy to be part of bringing food to these kids”. Orlando’s role models are his parents. Both his parents graduated high school with excellent grades and “continuously motivate me to do my best in school”. While neither of them was able to finish college they are determined to see that Orlando is given that opportunity.



Reuben Day-Lopez
Cesar Chavez Academy

“The city that I love is going through a rough time. I will do anything possible to help the city” says Reuben Day-Lopez. As a volunteer group leader for the Motor City Clean up Reuben helps clean parks and streets in Detroit while insuring that the volunteers have fun while completing their assigned tasks. “I have learned that once you contribute to your community you find the meaning of life” he says in his essay on community service. In addition to the Clean up, Reuben is involved in the March of Dimes, National Honor Society, school sports fundraising and is the Captain of the varsity wrestling and track teams at Cesar Chavez Academy. With all of those activities he still takes a course load more rigorous than most students at his high school and maintains a 3.09 GPA according to his recommender and art teacher, Michael Lamb. Reuben’s long term goal is to “teach others about the Hispanic Culture through art”. He would like to pursue a career as an artist or art teacher in the inner city and plans to attend Western Michigan University next fall. Reuben feels his Hispanic Heritage has been a strong influence in his development. “The Hispanic Culture is filled with such a rich past” he says “it has pushed me to succeed in school and life”.



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Maria Guadalupe Romo
Cesar Chavez Academy

Maria Guadalupe Romo attends the Cesar Chavez Academy where she carries a 3.85 GPA. Maria's community service resume includes working with her church to help teach Catechism, acting as a mentor for the Young Peoples Project, working at a Nun summer camp for kids and working with the National Honor Society to name just a few. "Family values such as respect, honesty, responsibility, compassion, justice and commitment have always influenced my perspective on life" states Maria in her essay on Heritage and Role Models. She points to her mother's work with the Red Cross as a key inspiration for her own Community Service efforts. Like many of our scholars she cites stereotypical characterizations of Hispanics as a motivator for her inside and outside school. All the criticism of Hispanics "has given me the determination to succeed in life" she says. Maria wants to attend the University of Michigan Dearborn Campus and study Pre-Med. She would like to become an Oncologist, a career decision influenced by her mother's volunteer work and her role model parents who encouraged her to "always do your best and you'll have no regrets".



Jonathan Jurado
Cesar Chavez Academy

Jonathan Jurado is one of three Cesar Chavez Academy students chosen to receive a Ric Gonzalez Memorial Foundation Scholarship this year. Jonathan would like to attend the University of Michigan Flint Campus to study pre law and eventually earn his law degree. He carries a 3.0 GPA while working up to 30 hours per week. His community service resume includes working with Motor City Make Over, assisting in the local blood drive, and helping out the school teachers before and after school. Jonathan cites as role models prominent Hispanic leaders and scientists such as Alfred Molina, Cesar Chavez and Jaime Escalante. "My Aunts, Uncles and parents told me constantly to value the education I receive in school" Jonathan writes in his essay on his role models. "My heritage and my family have been the driving forces to push me to succeed in school and plan for college" he says. His letter of recommendation from his English teacher recognizes the effect of those influences stating "J.J. is a well disciplined, industrious student with a pleasant personality. He goes well beyond the course requirements in the quantity and quality of his projects putting in a lot of extra research and effort".



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Paige Woods
Waterford Mott
High School

Rated by her recommender as a “seek out” candidate, Paige Woods has participated in varsity track all four years at Waterford Mott High School. As a member of the Mott “Leadership Class” Paige spends time mentoring 9th grade students and volunteers her time freely to help train first year members of the Link Crew effort. Even with these extracurricular activities she manages to participate in various community service activities including feeding the homeless at Thanksgiving, walking in the “Walk for Warmth” to assist low income families and seniors with heat bills, helping in a pancake breakfast benefiting a local shelter for women and children and spending time visiting with senior citizens. “I feel honored to give back to the people who need help” says Paige, “Volunteer work teaches me the wrong and right on many subjects”. Paige cites her grandparents and mother as her main role models. Learning about the family history and struggles from her grandparents influenced her to work hard to graduate high school and attend college. Her goal is to study nursing at one of the major Michigan universities. Eventually she would like to become an anesthesiologist. She carries a 2.67 GPA at Mott with a course load heavy in the sciences.



Sandra Zamudio
Western International
High School

A student at Western International High School in Detroit, Sandra Zamudio is a member of the National Honor Society, Captain of the swim team and editor of the school yearbook. She carries a 3.67 GPA with many honors classes dotting her transcript. Sandra wants to attend University of Detroit Mercy and study business. Her professional field of interest is international business. Sandra’s brother, Jose, is one of her key role models. Graduating with honors from a private university as a graphic designer after having come to the U.S. not able to speak English, Jose set a solid example for his younger siblings. “He is somebody who has always helped us out with our studies” she says. Linda Jones, Sandra’s recommender, teacher and coach rates her a “seek out” candidate for the scholarship. “Sandra has always been able to focus well on achieving milestones toward a long term goal. She is an extremely dedicated and enthusiastic young lady” she states in her recommendation. Sandra points to her parents as inspiration for her achievements in and out of school. “I have grown up seeing my father struggle trying to supply money for food while still paying bills. That is why my mother and father have always told me to stay in school and get good grades. Good grades are a must for my five siblings and me”.