



2011 Scholarship Recipients (11 Awarded)



Analuz Aguinaga
Cesar Chavez Academy

Analuz Aguinaga attends *Cesar Chavez Academy* and is ranked 4th in her class with a 3.95 GPA. Her goal is to attend the University of Detroit Mercy majoring in medicine and go into a nursing career. Born and raised in Southwest Detroit, Analuz' family moved for a short time to the suburbs before returning to the city. That experience helped her realize how her Hispanic heritage influenced her life. "I realized my heritage is a big part of my life and that it makes me who I am" she writes. "I have always been taught that education is important. My parents did not have the opportunity to [pursue] higher education. Their hard work and perseverance taught me that everything is possible" she explains. In recommending Analuz for the scholarship her teacher cites her ability to influence her peers through words and actions. "Analuz has high expectations for herself and she does her best to meet those goals" he states. With a strong Catholic upbringing Analuz volunteers much of her time in support of her church. In that role she has come to understand the value of teamwork and the importance of each and every part in a functioning group. "I truly love helping others" she says "not for the thank you or the sigh of appreciation but for the warm feeling inside that comes from having done something good for someone".



Lillian Cintron
Pontiac High School

Lillian Cintron attends *Pontiac High School* and is dual enrolled in both Pontiac High and Oakland Community College. Recommended as a "seek out" candidate by her high school and OCC teachers, she carries a 3.98 GPA with a course load heavy in honors classes. Her recommender describes her as "highly motivated and willing to help others, take charge and keep everyone focused". "Lillian has done everything a student in a low income urban area can do to make sure she is successful" she writes. Lillian attends summer programs at Cranbrook Schools and is a member of her school Robotics team. Her community service resume includes helping lead a recycling drive that eventually collected enough money to fund a \$1,000 scholarship for a graduating senior. She is a member of the National Honors Society and Cranbrook's Horizons-Upward Bound program. Ms. Cintron would like to attend Michigan State University next fall working toward a career in Veterinary Medicine. Lillian's aunt gave her this advice as she prepared for high school, "never forget where you came from, understand that we did not get the opportunities that you have now, the only thing stopping you from anything is nothing". Lillian has taken that advice and pushed herself to achieve outstanding results in her school, her community service and overcoming the challenges she has faced.



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Jose Davila
Waterford Mott
High School

Jose Davila attends *Waterford Mott High School* and is a member of Cranbrook's Horizons Upward Bound (HUB) program. His GPA is currently 3.46 with a course load heavy in AP and Honors classes. Jose was chosen for Mott's highly selective Student Leadership Program and is active in school, community and state activities. His counselor rates him a "seek out" candidate for the RGMF scholarship and sights his community activities and high level course load as reasons. Jose draws inspiration from his family heritage and his role model parents. Both his parents worked long hours to support their 5 children and as a result, Jose grew up quickly. "I believed that through education hope and inspiration is able to develop in the minds of a forgotten community" he says. This realization helped him set goals that exceeded those of most his community peers. Jose plans on attending the University of Michigan to major in Biology/pre-med and wants to pursue a career as a physician in emergency medicine. "It is important to explore past your horizons" he comments regarding his experience with the Cranbrook HUB program, "At Cranbrook I learned time management and educational independence along with other things that have prepared me for both high school and college. HUB has developed into my second family, into a type of support system that has allowed me to grow. I intend on giving back to this community that has given me so much."



Raquel Diaz
Western International
High School

Raquel Diaz attends *Western International High School* where she is an active participant in the JROTC program. As part of the program she has performed over 150 hours of community service primarily working with buildOn "an after school program that focuses on sponsorship, leadership, community service and the importance of education". As a volunteer in the program, Raquel travelled to Mali Africa to help villagers construct a school. "buildOn has taught me leadership skills and the importance of helping others locally and globally" she says in her essay on community service. Raquel cites Cesar Chavez as one of her inspirations. Like Chavez she struggled in early school experiences because English was not her primary language. But as she overcame her challenge, education became a primary focus much like Cesar Chavez who later in life became passionate about the value of education.

Ms. Diaz plans to attend Bowling Green State University, major in Education and become a teacher. Working in a local community center she got the chance to teach and mentor young children. The experience helped mold her college aspirations. "I got to experience what it is like to teach kids and interact with them, I developed this great love for teaching and children" she says.



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Carmen Engel
Grosse Pointe South
High School

With a 3.92 GPA at *Grosse Pointe South High School* and a course load heavy in honors and AP classes, **Carmen Engel** plans on attending Michigan State University next fall. Her expected major is Education and she would like to pursue a career in Special Education. She has been a tutor, group leader and volunteer counselor in church, at St. Johns Hospital and with Special Olympics to name just a few. Carmen considers Detroit her home and describes in her essay on community service how she decided to get involved and help improve the City. "I realized I had to start with something small, but I knew that even small scale things can slowly help bring back the Motor City" she says. This led her to get involved in the tutoring and mentoring program at the Church of the Messiah. Her experiences working with inner city youth helped her to understand the challenges they face each day. "I found it was important to learn to hope." This is a trait she will use for her personal goals. "I want to make a difference in the City of Detroit and in the lives of the people who live there. In the future I want to be able to proudly say I am from Detroit and walk through the streets admiring a city that has been renewed.

Her counselor recognized this spirit in her recommendation form stating "Carmen always puts others first" and describes her as a "self starter and natural leader".



Berenice Flores
Notre Dame Preparatory

As a volunteer translator at *Walton Charter Academy* in Pontiac, **Berenice Flores** has seen firsthand the strains on the current bi-lingual support system for Spanish speaking families. Her experiences translating for parents in teacher conferences since 8th grade has shown her that Spanish speaking parents want to be involved in their children's education but in many cases cannot get the help they need to communicate with educators. This has helped Berenice with her career choice. She plans on attending Michigan State University next fall majoring in psychology. From there she will pursue a career in law focusing on immigration law to help support the Hispanic and immigrant community. Berenice attends Notre Dame Preparatory School and carries a 3.35 GPA. She cites her biggest academic challenge as the transition from middle to high school. Berenice was intent on attending Notre Dame Prep instead of Pontiac High. Knowing that her parents could never afford the tuition she never the less made contact with the Dean of Admissions and received encouragement to apply. She filled out the application, financial forms, set up placement testing as well as admissions and scholarship interviews all on her own. She was accepted and received the maximum financial scholarship convincing her family that she could succeed there. Her school Dean describes her as "committed to success" and points to her work "single handedly reinstituting" the Notre Dame Multicultural Alliance Club as evidence of her drive and focus.



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Daniela Guzman
Western International
High School

Daniela Guzman plans to attend the University of Michigan next fall majoring in medicine. Her career goal is to become a pediatrician. Currently a senior at **Western International High School**, her 3.91 GPA has her ranked 4th in her class. She is a 4 year member of the JROTC and has chosen 4 AP classes for her fall semester. Daniela has been involved with Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation where she volunteered to help clean up neighborhood graffiti, mentored young adults and helped with fundraising efforts. She also helps raise funds for her school through bake sales and candy sales and is an active member of the National Honor Society. Daniela cites her parents and brothers as her role models. “My whole life I have been motivated by my parents to reach higher levels” she says. Her mother only received an elementary school education and her father finished middle school but they recognized the importance of a good education pushing Daniela and her older brothers to attain excellent GPAs. Speaking of the support her family has given her throughout her school years she says “They have always been there for me, supporting me. Now I think it has come time to repay them”. Rated a “seek out” candidate by her counselor of three years, Daniela’s focus on her goals provides a model for her fellow students at Western International.



Jaylen Hill
Cesar Chavez Academy

Jaylen Hill wants to be a role model for his siblings. “I want to give them inspiration to do their best at everything they do and to help them pursue their goals and dreams”. He cites his parents as his role models. “They pushed me to be a hard worker and never give up” he says in his essay on heritage. His perspective on attending college changed in the eleventh grade when one of his teachers told him “don’t just go to college for yourself, do it for your family and your community”. After that he changed his definition of success and began volunteering time to help clean up Detroit and rebuild his community. Jaylen plans to attend the University of Michigan with a pre-law major. He works 20 hours per week while attending **Cesar Chavez Academy** and carries a 3.54 GPA. His teacher describes him as a “powerhouse student with extraordinary academic and social skills”. He is involved in student government and has been recognized as an essential piece in the school mediation program. “My experiences [in the mediation program] have made me a stronger and even wiser person” he says. “I hope to use these skills in my own conflicts and to have the confidence to resolve my own problems. My goal is to attain a career that will uphold my family name and help my community.”



2011 Scholarship Recipients (11 Awarded)



Jennifer Martinez
Western International
High School

Through her high school years, **Jennifer Martinez** has performed over 300 hours of community service in support of charities, law enforcement and churches. A student at **Western International High School** she has been involved in JROTC, Upward Bound, Alternatives for Girls, Meals on Wheels and La Sed. When she grew too old to be a participant in one program, she volunteered as a youth leader and taught basketball to kids four to ten years old. Jennifer set a goal to attend college early in high school and works hard carrying a 3.35 GPA. She plans to attend Savannah College of Arts and Design and obtain a degree in Architecture next fall. After that she plans to get a business degree and open up her own company. Her JROTC teacher describes her as a “seek out” candidate who is a strong leader with sound study habits and ethics. Jennifer lost her mother at a young age and according to her teacher has used that as a motivating influence in her life. Jennifer’s older sister, Michelle, has been a major influence as well setting an example by working very hard to overcome adversity and achieve success. She will be the first in her family to attend college and this motivates her to stay focused and achieve her goals.



Edwin Santana
Western International
High School

Edwin Santana plans to attend Wayne State University next fall in the pre-med program. His career goal is to be a pediatrician and to “make an impact on this world”. With a 3.5 GPA at **Western International High School** Edwin is the captain of the wrestling team, plays for the school soccer and baseball teams and is a member of the National Honor Society. He volunteers his time to coach soccer for Think Detroit Pal, works to help his church in fundraising activities and has served food for Meals on Wheels. Like many of our scholars, Edwin cites his parents as his role models. “My parents and my grandparents always steered me down the right path” he says, “although at times I wouldn’t agree with the consequences [if I slipped up]”. In his essay on an academic challenge he has faced Edwin recalls his freshman year in high school when he failed to take his studies seriously. After receiving a 2.0 GPA his first semester he came to the realization that his future depended on his school performance and took a more positive attitude toward the work. From that point his grades improved and his cumulative GPA improved dramatically. “I wish I could do my freshman year over again. That is all behind me now, I have to keep moving forward” he says.



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Eduardo Cordera Vilchis
Notre Dame Preparatory

“It is always satisfying to see how your work has helped a person in need” writes ***Eduardo Cordera Vilchis*** in his essay on community service. Eduardo volunteers time with Hispanic Outreach in Pontiac where he distributes food, school supplies, Easter baskets and Thanksgiving turkeys to needy families. “[Volunteering] teaches me that there will always be a need for help and we should do what we can in order to have a better community”. He cites his biggest academic challenge as the transition from elementary to middle school at the same time he was moving from France to the U.S. Coming from a Spanish speaking home life and a French speaking school he had to adapt to a new school, new country and learn a third language. With support from his family, patience, time and hard work he was able to adapt and excel in his new environment. A student at ***Notre Dame Preparatory***, Eduardo carries a 3.15 GPA with a course load heavy in science and mathematics. His goal is to attend the University of Michigan and obtain a Mechanical Engineering degree eventually pursuing a career as a manufacturing engineer. Greg Simon, Dean of Admissions and Diversity for Notre Dame Prep, recommends Eduardo as a “seek out” candidate describing him as a lifelong learner who constantly challenges himself. In addition to his academic achievements and community service Eduardo is involved in Robotics, swimming, lacrosse, soccer and the French National Honors Society.