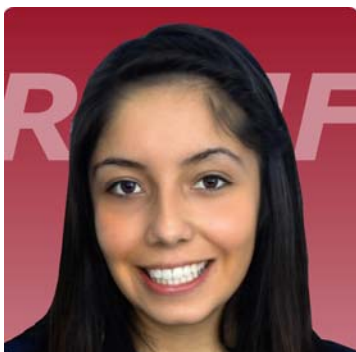




2012 Scholarship Recipients (8 Awarded)



Karen Alvarez
Cesar Chavez Academy

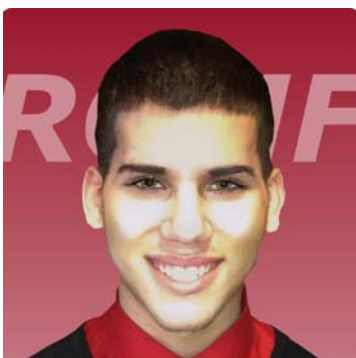
As a full time student working 20 hours a week, **Karen Alvarez** was devastated when her schoolbag was stolen from her mother's car. As she described in her application essay, Karen had already missed several days of school to help translate for her mother who was in the hospital for a fractured ankle. After returning to the car and realizing her bag and all of her work was gone, Karen wrote, "I cried out of stress, and fear. However I understood one thing very fast, and it was that crying will never get me anywhere. I had to work around all these issues and climb back up to the top."

And so she did.

Earning a 3.93 GPA, Karen is described by her Instructional Coach as an, "intelligent, engaging and self-motivated young lady."

In her spare time, Karen also participated in the Ladies Club, a program developed to help young girls by boosting their self-esteem and teaching them to avoid abusive relationships.

Karen hopes to attend the University of Michigan next fall and major in Kinesiology.



Oscar Chapa
Western International
High School

Earning a 4.16 GPA at Western International High School, **Oscar Chapa** remains humble and earnest, and is eager to help his classmates, according to his teacher. He has participated as a mentor for Youth of Promise Leadership Program and a teaching assistant at Wayne State University's Math Corps program.

"I am seventeen years old and I am in a position to uplift my peers," Oscar wrote in an essay about contributing to his community, "Just like Ric Gonzalez did not allow his disability to detour his mission, I will not let my age interfere with my mission to better my community one peer at a time."

After graduation, Oscar plans to attend the University of Michigan and major in Industrial Engineering.

According to his teacher, Oscar plans to return to Southwest Detroit after college to continue to give back to his community. It is Oscar's personal conviction that, "greatness shines even in the darkest corners." In his essay about his role models, Oscar wrote, "Eventually I will transform the already vibrant area of Southwest Detroit into a leading urban neighborhood by instilling the values I learned from my family's struggles- work hard, honor family, face your struggles, and adapt."



2012 Scholarship Recipients (8 Awarded)

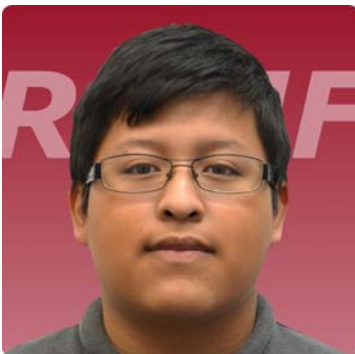


Lizette Esquivel
Western International
High School

As a student at Western International High School, **Lizette Esquivel** has earned a 3.3 GPA and is described as "a class and school leader" by her social studies teacher. Outside of class, Lizette works 15 hours a week and tutors at Phoenix Academy. In addition, for two years, Lizette volunteered as a youth leader at the Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation. On a trip to California to participate in a NCLR youth conference, Lizette was inspired by a talk about clean communities. When she got back to Michigan, she led a community clean up in which around 200 youth leaders participated.

"I have always gotten a warm sense of gratification from helping out others and my community," Lizette wrote in her essay, "I genuinely believe that by helping out your community you are helping out yourself."

According to her teacher, Lizette, "refuses to let excuses get in the way of her path to success." Lizette plans to study Political Science at the University of Michigan after graduation and wants to eventually become a lawyer.



Lemuel Morales
Pontiac High School

As a student at Pontiac High School and an active member at Centro Cristiano Latino church, **Lemuel Morales** says he has taken a lot from his experiences.

"I learned that there is more to life than just living," Lemuel wrote in his essay on contributing to his community, "I learned to be more responsible, learned how to work more efficiently with people, learned to multitask, and learned more about respect."

Earning a 4.0 GPA, Lemuel is described as, "a reserved, yet articulate young man," and, "more than an outstanding student," by his high school counselor who recommended him as a "seek out" candidate.

Admitting to having fallen off the proverbial "bandwagon" in middle school, Lemuel says he was determined to succeed. In his essay, Lemuel said, "I gave it my all, my best. I tried to get all As, and I did. I wanted to make my family proud of me." After graduation, Lemuel plans to attend Michigan State University and major in Graphic Design.



2012 Scholarship Recipients (8 Awarded)



Torez Ortezt
Notre Dame Preparatory

A senior at Notre Dame Preparatory School, **Torez Ortezt** has volunteered at Gleaner's Food Bank and St. Joseph's Church. He also helps his grandmother at her daycare center and foster home.

"I feel it is my responsibility to help my community as well as my family," Torez wrote in his essay about contributing to his community.

As a student Torez is always challenging himself, according to his high school counselor who described him as a "fine example of a student who has persevered in a rigorous academic program."

As for his role model, Torez describes his mother who showed perseverance when she was laid off from the Pontiac Police Department.

"My mom became my role model as she strived to provide for her children while facing adversity... Without her strong stance on education, I wouldn't have the opportunities I have today," Torez wrote.

After graduation, Torez plans to attend Grand Valley State University to obtain his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration.



Antonio Ramirez
Western International
High School

Interested in business management, **Antonio Ramirez** plans to attend the University of Michigan after graduation.

While attending Western International High School, Antonio is the captain of the football team and a starter on the baseball team and has earned a 3.58 GPA. In his determination to succeed, Antonio has fought to get into advanced placement classes according to his AP English teacher.

Antonio also participates in Esperanza, a youth advocacy group, with which he has improved the community by painting and cleaning his school, and picking up parks. In an essay on contributing to his community, Antonio wrote, "I take pride in my community... My community has seen me at my worst and my best but never managed to leave my side."



2012 Scholarship Recipients (8 Awarded)

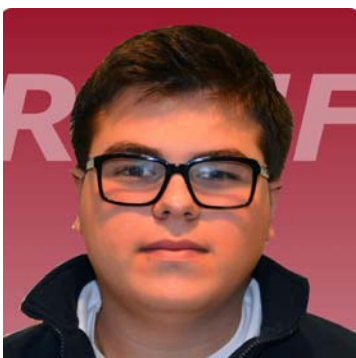


Mariela Reyes
Cesar Chavez Academy

"I really want to be someone in life," wrote **Mariela Reyes** in her essay on Hispanic heritage.

Inspired by the determination of her parents who came to America to provide a better life for their family, Reyes plans to attend Schoolcraft College next fall to earn her nursing degree. And according to her English teacher, when she sets goals for herself, she makes sure that she follows through with them.

In addition to her hard work and determination, Reyes also likes to lend a helping hand to others, tutoring and translating over the past two years. She also participated in the SER Metro Detroit Youth of Promise Leadership Program in 2009.



Andrew Stupka
Notre Dame Preparatory

"I like the feeling that I am able to make even the smallest difference in someone's life" wrote **Andrew Stupka**, who plans to one day become a doctor.

Andrew is a senior at Notre Dame Preparatory School, and according to one of his instructors, he "is a warm-hearted, compassionate and determined young man."

"On many occasions I have seen Andrew stand up for the little guy, and he always does what is right and just," the teacher said.

Andrew also spends time giving back to the community by gardening and packing boxes for Gleaner's Food Bank.

In school, Andrew has earned a 3.6 GPA while taking multiple honors and AP courses. Even after having several surgeries on his back and missing classes during recovery, Andrew reached out to teachers and classmates to make sure he didn't fall behind.

"Despite being put in a situation where I was unable to sit at a desk and listen to a 45 minute lecture for each class, I was driven to complete assignments as if I was," wrote Andrew.

Andrew plans to attend the University of Michigan after graduation.