



## 2013 Scholarship Recipients (11 Awarded)



**Lilybeth Castillo**  
Cesar Chavez Academy

*Lilybeth Castillo* spent two weeks traveling with the Michigan Coalition for Human Rights this summer.

"The Freedom Tour was such a great experience to learn and be able to hear stories from people who fought hard during the civil rights movement," Lilybeth wrote in one of her submission essays. "It has opened my eyes that work isn't finished yet, there is still a lot that has to be done and I'm willing to take part of that struggle."

In addition to her participation in the MCHR youth group, Lilybeth has participated in Lifegroup, Ecology Club, MANA and helped register people to vote in 2012.

"She is passionate about history, government, and politics and discusses these fields and current issues regularly with adults and peers," wrote her teacher.

An "enthusiastic and eager learner," Lilybeth has also taken on multiple honors courses at *Cesar Chavez Academy* where she has earned a 3.12 GPA. She plans on attending the University of Michigan and hopes to eventually become a lawyer.



**Ana Cordera Vilchis**  
Lake Orion High School

A student at *Lake Orion High School*, *Ana Cordera Vilchis* has achieved a 3.80 GPA. In addition to her school work, Ana is on the Teen Advisory Council, has participated in Key Club Community Service and has tutored through the National Honor Society and Hispanic Catholic Outreach.

"I still have many lives to change," Ana wrote in one of her submission essays. "I still have many more impacts to make. I know, however, that if I keep dedicating myself to the activities I am involved in, I will soon achieve my goal."

Ana plans to attend Northwestern University and major in Journalism.

"The sky is the limit for her because she intentionally surrounds herself with a diverse set of experiences and opportunities, and she is by-far one of the most well-rounded high school juniors I've encountered in my dozen years of teaching," wrote Ana's teacher in his scholarship recommendation.



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**Rachel Cruz**  
Waterford Kettering  
High School

A preschool leader at Vacation Bible School, **Rachel Cruz** plans to pursue her degree in Early Childhood Education at Central Michigan University.

"She is a great role model to all those around her and for the young girls in our community," wrote Rachel's guidance counselor in her scholarship recommendation, adding that she is a "very good student who knows how to organize her time."

Eighth in her class out of 428 students, Rachel has earned a 3.99 GPA at **Waterford Kettering High School**. She has taken on multiple AP courses and works 15 hours per week outside of school.

"Sometimes I believe I have too much on my plate," wrote Rachel in one of her scholarship essays, "but I tell myself I can do it and I figure out how I will."



**Daniel Felix**  
Cesar Chavez Academy

**Daniel Felix** is a first generation student determined to make his mark in the world.

"I have learned that the best way to overcome any obstacle is to have perseverance and confidence that you will succeed," wrote Daniel in one of his scholarship essays. "I also learned that I must be willing to invest a good amount of time and hard work to reach my ultimate goal."

Top of his class at **Cesar Chavez Academy**, Daniel has earned a 3.98 GPA. In his spare time, he has participated in the National Honor Society and interns at the Karmanos Cancer Center. After graduation, Daniel wants to attend the University of Michigan and major in Biomedical Engineering, with the goal of eventually becoming a Physician.

In her scholarship recommendation, Daniel's teacher wrote that she is, "highly confident that he will thrive in college and in whatever career he chooses."



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**Alejandra Gomez Limon**  
Notre Dame Preparatory

When *Alejandra Gomez Limon* moved to the United States, she was faced with many challenges: new country, new school, new grading system and new peers. Her academic standards started slipping. She knew things needed to change.

“I decided to learn about the grading system, ask my teachers and peers for help, and most importantly do the work I was given,” Alejandra wrote in one of her scholarship essays. “No matter how deep of a hole I dig for myself in life or academics, there is a way to climb out. All one needs is perseverance and desire to be and do better.”

A student at *Notre Dame Preparatory*, Alejandra has earned a 3.10 GPA and is very active in her community. Outside of school she has participated as a counselor for Hispanic Outreach, an organizer for the Michigan Women’s Foundation and a fundraiser aid for Crittenton Hospital. After high school, Alejandra would like to attend Valparaíso University to study Pre-law and Spanish.

“Alejandra’s achievements are impressive,” wrote her teacher in her scholarship recommendation. “I recommend her without hesitation.”



**Cinthya Hernandez**  
Notre Dame Preparatory

The first of her family to have the opportunity to graduate from high school, *Cinthya Hernandez* would like to attend Oakland University to study Health Sciences.

“Both of my parents were raised in poverty and through their experiences, I learned that I cannot take things for granted,” Cinthya wrote in one of her scholarship essays. “By working hard, I know I can become the first one in my family to make it to college and achieve the highest goal I have, becoming a physical therapist.”

Earning a 3.6 GPA at *Notre Dame Preparatory School*, her teacher wrote in her scholarship recommendation that Cinthya, “sets high goals for herself and achieves them with great enthusiasm.” In addition to her schoolwork, Cinthya works 16 hours per week and volunteers as a translator at Walton Charter Academy and as an altar server at St. Damien of Molokai church.

“Cinthya is an outstanding example of a Christian person, upright citizen and academic scholar,” her teacher wrote.



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**Raquel Martinez**  
Cesar Chavez Academy

"Overcoming any challenge is going to be hard work," wrote **Raquel Martinez** in one of her scholarship essays, "In the long run going that extra mile is always worth it."

Outside of obtaining a 3.96 GPA at **Cesar Chavez Academy**, Raquel has interned at General Motors, participated as a co-op student at DTE Energy and volunteered at Logan and Bennet Elementary Schools. Her goal is to attend Wayne State University and major in either mechanical or electrical engineering. She would eventually like to pursue a law degree and become a corporate attorney.

"I acknowledge I may be setting high goals for myself but determination and dedication have been other traits I have developed due to my Hispanic heritage and family upbringing," Raquel wrote.

In her scholarship recommendation, Raquel's teacher wrote that Raquel, "was a top student in terms of academic performance all year, regularly setting a positive example for her peers by consistently dedicating herself to learning and producing quality work."



**Alondra Martinez Lopez**  
Pontiac High School

"Since I was a little girl, I've dreamed of the day when I would be able to graduate from high school and say, 'next fall I will be attending college,'" wrote Alondra Martinez Lopez in one of her scholarship essays.

Alondra's parents, who didn't have the opportunity to get a higher education when they were growing up, stressed to Alondra and her younger brothers the importance of education. And when they decided to move to the United States, Alondra wrote, she had faith that her dreams of college could become a reality.

"Being able to attend college is the result of those who worked hard for us to be where we are," Alondra wrote. "I want to persevere and work hard to achieve all of my goals."

A student at Pontiac High School, Alondra has earned a 3.13 GPA and hopes to continue her studies at Oakland University.

"I have strong confidence that she will succeed in her future education," wrote Alondra's teacher in her scholarship recommendation.



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**Maria Medina**  
International Technology  
Academy

**Maria Medina** was born in Zacatecas, Mexico and moved to the United States with her family when she was 14 years old.

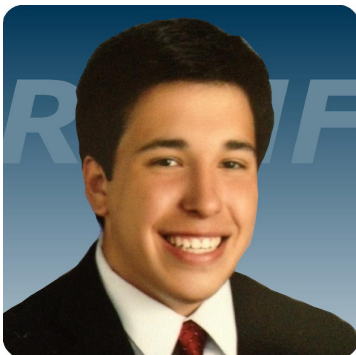
"I have not forgotten about my culture," Maria wrote in a scholarship essay. "I learned great morals that today I am implementing."

In Mexico, Maria helped at her church. In Michigan, not only does she carry on that tradition, she also participates in other forms of community service. In her youth group Maria has helped feed the homeless and, on the group's retreats, she regularly helps people fill out job applications.

"I have learned that service is very important for my personal growth," Maria wrote.

A student at the **International Technology Academy**, Maria has earned a 3.59 GPA. After graduation, Maria would like to attend the University of Michigan.

"I have no doubt that [Maria] will do great things in college and have no reservations about recommending her for any scholarship or program," Maria's teacher wrote in her scholarship recommendation.



**Robert Molnar**  
Notre Dame Preparatory

"Bobby, do well and go to college. Don't take your education for granted," **Robert Molnar's** grandmother told him before she passed away of cancer.

"She is the reason I constantly push myself to further my educational goals," Robert wrote in one of his submission essays. "I wish to continue [her] legacy, a legacy where hard work truly does pay off for generations to come, where the sacrifice of one affects the lives of so many others."

During his years at **Notre Dame Preparatory School**, Robert has earned a 3.95 GPA and is part of the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program. In addition to his studies, Robert has taught at Holy Family Parish Vacation Bible School and tutored at Hurley Hospital. He plans to go into medicine, studying at either the University of Notre Dame or the University of Michigan.

"He is a model student who is well-liked by all," the President of Notre Dame Preparatory School wrote in his scholarship recommendation letter.





## 2013 Scholarship Recipients (11 Awarded)



**Edi Preciado**  
Pontiac High School

“I want to go to college and graduate so that I can make a statement,” ***Edi Preciado*** wrote in one of his scholarship essays. “I want to show people that anyone can do it, and to ignore the stereotypes that we face daily.”

A student at ***Pontiac High School***, Edi Preciado has earned a 3.02 GPA and wants to go to Kettering University after he graduates to major in Mechanical Engineering.

In addition to his studies, Edi is the Vice President of the National Honor Society, a member of his school’s Robotic team, a staff member of J.R.O.T.C. and a member of the “Los Missioneros de Guadalupe” youth group at St. Michael’s Church.

“Edi is sure to be successful in any academic opportunity he pursues,” Edi’s guidance counselor wrote in her scholarship recommendation.