



2017 Scholarship Recipients (15 Awarded)



Aileen Ramos
Western International
High School

“Aileen is incredibly bright and has tremendous potential,” one of **Aileen Ramos**’s instructors wrote of her in her student recommendation, “She has shown that she has the drive for success within her academics as well as her extra-curricular activities.”

A student at **Western International High School**, Aileen is enrolled in multiple honors and AP courses. Aside from her studies, Aileen maintains a part time job and participates in community projects through Lawrence Tech University.

“I try to participate in as much as I can to make my community a better place,” Aileen wrote in one of her scholarship application essays, “I’ve learned that as long as there are people who are willing to attempt to make our community better, there will always be hope for a brighter future.”

After graduation, Aileen plans on attending the University of Michigan where she will study to be a doctor.



Alexis Alcantar
Western International
High School

“Alexis has been an outstanding student who has met every challenge put before him,” wrote one of **Alexis Alcantar**’s teachers in his student recommendation. “He is dedicated, responsible and hardworking.”

A senior at **Western International High School**, Alexis holds a 4.08 GPA and is ranked 7th in his class.

In addition to his studies, Alexis volunteers at his church as well as for BuildOn and TREK. Outside of school and his volunteer work, Alexis works 25 hours per week.

After graduation, Alexis plans to attend the University of Michigan where he will study Biology and eventually hold a career as an Orthopedic Surgeon.



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Alonzo Rodriguez
Cass Technical High School

In addition to earning an overall weighted GPA of 4.28 and ranking 5th in his senior class of 572 students at **Cass Tech High School**, **Alonzo Rodriguez** is the Treasurer of the Latino Culture Club, the Secretary of Education of the National Honor Society, an Educational Liaison for Focused on Freshman, a member of BuildOn and a member on the board of Congress of Communities.

“Alonzo stands out as one of Cass Tech’s best and most promising students and future leaders in his field,” wrote one of Alonzo’s teachers in his student recommendation. “[he] is an extremely brilliant student whose acumen is matched by his humility and his desire to help others.”

In addition to excelling in multiple AP and advanced courses, Alonzo has received a score of 1500 on his SAT and a score of 31 on his ACT.

After graduation, Alonzo plans to major in Computer Science at Stanford University.



Carmen Aranda
Notre Dame Preparatory

A graduating senior at **Notre Dame Preparatory School**, **Carmen Aranda** hopes to one day become a lawyer. After graduation, Carmen plans to attend Michigan State University where she will begin her studies for her future profession.

Currently, in addition to her studies, Carmen volunteers at St. Leo’s Soup Kitchen, Angel’s place and as a translator for “NHA Schools”.

She has a part time job, working 20 hours a week, and participates as an organizer for the Walton Charter Christmas Project each year.

“[Carmen] makes students around her better listeners and learners. She is looked up to and is very sincere in her ability to be a good citizen and friend,” wrote one of Carmen’s teachers in his student recommendation.



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Christian Perales
Cristo Rey High School

Apart from his studies at **Detroit Cristo Rey High School** in which he earns a 3.9 GPA, **Christian Perales** volunteers his time with Cadillac Urban Gardens, Motor City Makeover, GM Cares and Park.

During his time with Cadillac Urban Gardens on Merritt, Christian participated in street sweeps, a program run by Detroit Environmental Vision where he helped with city beautification by maintaining a local urban garden.

“There is much more to gardening than planting seeds,” wrote Christian in an application essay. “Just like people, you have to nurture them in order for them to grow.”

After graduation, Christian would like to attend Dartmouth where he will study business.



Daniel Ramos
Western International
High School

“Daniel has a very positive attitude about responsibilities and education,” one of **Daniel Ramos**’s teachers wrote in his student recommendation. “He is able to generate a good environment as well as to motivate and encourage himself and his peers...I am strongly confident that Daniel will do well throughout his academic career.”

Earning an overall weighted GPA of 4.15 while enrolled in multiple honors and AP courses as a student at **Western International High School**, Daniel is ranked second in his class of 400 students.

In addition to excelling in his studies, Daniel also holds a part time job.

After graduation, Daniel plans to attend the University of Michigan where he will study business.



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Esau Roblero
Cass Technical High School

A senior at **Cass Tech High School** enrolled in multiple AP and Honors courses, **Esau Roblero** has earned an overall weighted GPA of 4.29, ranking 4th of his class of 572 students.

As a first generation American, Esau was witness to his family's struggles in coming to America from Guatemala.

"I was exposed to the reality that just because my father saw a future for me in the United States, he wasn't allowed to see me grow up in it," Esau wrote in an application essay. "Despite the traumatic experience, I learned something that will forever empower me to reach my personal and academic goals... [my family's] strength encourages me to continue on in life despite the terrible things that might happen... My background does not make me a weak link. It empowers me to disprove the preconceived conceptions of being a part of a minority."

In addition to excelling in his studies, Esau participates on the youth council and the board of directors for the Congress of Communities, as a youth community organizer for 482 Forward, volunteers for the Boys and Girls Club, and is a member of BuildOn.

After graduation, Esau plans to attend Harvard where he will study to be a Mechanical Engineer.



Emily Hernandez
Cass Technical High School

Emily Hernandez, a senior at **Cass Tech High School**, plans to study medicine at the University of Michigan after graduation.

"Emily is very organized and sets goals to accomplish her plans. She takes steps to ensure that she is successful," Emily's counselor wrote in her student recommendation.

In addition to her studies, Emily is a member of the National Honor Society, Latino Club and Youth Group, works on the Youth Advisory Board and volunteers as an altar server at her church.

"I am very grateful and happy for who I am and for who I am becoming. I am a proud Mexican-American," Emily wrote in one of her application essays. "I was built to be successful, I am successful."



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Gabriela Palma
Cesar Chavez Academy

“My parents always told me we want the best for you, we want you to have what we could not, we want to see you as a professional,” wrote **Gabriela Palma** in one of her scholarship application essays, ‘And I can say that those words went from my mind to my heart.’”

A graduating senior at **Cesar Chavez Academy** high school, Gabriela has earned a 3.96 GPA and is ranked 3rd in her class of 155 students.

“Gabriela leads by example. She is respectful to students and staff,” wrote one of Gabriela’s teachers in her student recommendation.

“Her hard work and continuous dedication to learning set a positive example for her peers.”

After graduation, Gabriela would like to attend Wayne State University where she plans on majoring in Finance.



Kyle Conroy
Notre Dame Preparatory

During his time at **Notre Dame Preparatory School**, **Kyle Conroy** has volunteered with St. Daniels Parish, the Pontiac Center for Success, Grace Centers of Hope, Gleaners Food Bank and Independence Elementary. In addition to this and to his studies in which he holds a 4.38 GPA, Kyle is on the varsity team of cross-country, track and wrestling.

“Kyle achieves his personal best by striving to be; an inquirer, knowledgeable, thinker, communicator, principled, open-minded, caring, risk-taker, balanced and reflective,” one of Kyle’s teachers wrote in her student recommendation.

Kyle is a member of the National Honor Society, a bronze medalist in the National Spanish Examination and is a recipient of the American Citizenship Award, an award given to a student who exemplifies good citizenship, community service and personal responsibility. Kyle is also the President of the Student Council for his class.

After graduation, Kyle plans to attend the University of Michigan where he will study Biology and eventually enter the medical field as a doctor.



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Maryan Beltran
Cesar Chavez Academy

Having spent her childhood living in both Mexico and the United States, **Maryan Beltran** overcame her language barrier and is currently enrolled as a senior at **Cesar Chavez Academy** where she holds a 3.9 GPA.

“She takes advantage of her ESL resources while pushing herself to do her best,” one of Maryan’s teachers wrote in her student recommendation. “She’s a hard worker and a great student.”

In addition to excelling in school, Maryan holds a part time job working 20 hours a week.

“My parents have taught me to be a hard worker who never gives up, because sometimes we have to sacrifice things to be able to have better opportunities in our life,” Maryan wrote in an application essay. “In the end, all my hard work will pay off.”

After graduation, Maryan plans to attend Wayne State University where she will study to become a Nurse.



Matthew Diaz
Western International
High School

Matthew Diaz, a student at **Western International High School**, would like to continue his studies after graduation in the field of Mechanical Engineering.

Currently enrolled in multiple AP and advanced courses, Matthew Diaz holds a 3.9 GPA while working 25 hours a week and volunteering in his spare time at his church.

“Matthew consistently challenges himself with regards to grades and to a rich education,” wrote one of Matthew’s teachers in her student recommendation. “His drive, thoughtfulness and considerate nature will represent the ideals of your scholarship well.”

After graduation, Matthew would like to attend the University of Michigan where he can continue to excel in his studies.



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Ramon Morones
Western International
High School

Ramon Morones, a graduating senior at **Western International High School**, holds an overall weighted GPA of 4.13 and is ranked 3rd in his class of 400 students. He is enrolled in multiple honors and AP courses, and in addition to his challenging academic schedule, Ramon volunteers at his church and for BuildOn.

“Ramon has demonstrated a commitment to academics, athletics and extracurriculars not commonly found in a student,” wrote one of Ramon’s teachers in her student recommendation.

After graduation, Ramon would like to attend the University of Michigan where he will study to become a Kinesiologist.

“With determination and certainty anything you set your mind to is possible,” Ramon wrote in a scholarship application essay.



Victor Chavez-Zavala
Western International
High School

A graduating senior at **Western International High School**, **Victor Chavez-Zavala** came to the United States at the age of seven.

Despite the inherent challenges of being uprooted at such a young age, Victor is currently enrolled in multiple AP courses and maintains a 3.86 GPA. Additionally, when he is not in class, Victor spends his time volunteering for BuildOn and TREK, participating in the school STEM Program and working 25 hours per week.

“It’s Victor’s passion for service, coupled with his work ethic and thoughtfulness that makes him a great student and leader,” wrote one of Victor’s teachers in her letter of recommendation.

After graduation, Victor plans on studying physics at the University of Michigan to prepare him for a career in civil engineering.



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Yulisa Rocha-Ortiz
Cesar Chavez Academy

Yulisa Rocha-Ortiz is a graduating senior at **Cesar Chavez Academy** enrolled in multiple AP Courses who, on top of maintaining a 3.45 GPA, works 42 hours a week.

“Yulisa is amazing,” Yulisa’s teacher wrote in her recommendation, “Yulisa leads her classmates by academic example in the classroom and on the field and basketball court in athletics.”

After graduation, Yulisa plans to attend Saginaw Valley State University and study medicine with a focus in physical therapy.

Congratulations to all our Scholarship Recipients