

COMMEMORATIVE MAGAZINE

CELEBRATING 10-YEARS OF DRIVING EDUCATION FURTHER



DRIVING DREAMS GRANTS





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28 2020 Unconventional

Graduations

30 Thank you Ford Motor Company Fund!



www.LULAC.org/FORD

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MESSAGE FROM THE LULAC CEO SINDY M. BENAVIDES

On behalf of the LULAC Institute, I am pleased to announce the 10th anniversary of the Ford Driving Dreams Grants program. During the last decade, this program has successfully and positively impacted the lives of over 2,825 students by helping them graduate high school and pursue higher education.



At LULAC we are committed to advancing the educational attainment of the Hispanic community and the Ford Driving Dreams Grants program has allowed us to help students dream higher, push through boundaries, and overcome their fears. Through the program we have noted an increase in high school graduation rates, self-confidence, and desire to enroll in post-secondary educational institutions among students across the U.S. and Puerto Rico. The program has also served as a convener for LULAC councils, partner organizations, and community members to come together and strengthen the support system for our leaders of tomorrow.

The Ford Driving Dreams Grants program has been a cornerstone of the educational efforts LULAC Institute has carried out over the past 10 years and I want to personally thank the Ford Motor Company Fund for their partnership and support to our LULAC councils and students. I am very gracious for your dedication to work alongside LULAC and help us meet our vision and mission.

None of the accomplishments described in this magazine could have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our LULAC members, on-site program coordinators, and students. LULAC is very proud of all their accomplishments and we look forward to seeing them excel in their future endeavors. I also want to thank our national programs team who embody the mission of our organizations and always go the extra mile (ten if needed)! We are also very excited to welcome future cohorts and continue to build on the legacy of the last decade. We look forward to seeing them develop as current and future leaders to harness their full potential. Congratulations to our students!

Together We Rise,

Denvisles

Sindy M. Benavides Chief Executive Officer LULAC Institute, Inc.



FORD MOTOR COMPANY FUND



On behalf of Ford Motor Company Fund, the philanthropic arm of Ford, I am proud to celebrate the 10th year anniversary of the Ford Driving Dreams

Grants Program.



Since 2010, the Ford Driving Dreams Grants Program, which supports LULAC councils, has helped students stay in school and graduate on time. To date, 78 LULAC councils and educational partners across the U.S. and Puerto Rico have developed and implemented effective high school dropout prevention programs rooted in localized solutions to address the specific needs of their communities. The Ford Driving Dreams Grants Program has funded over 82 programs, supported the education of more than 2,825 students and served as a convener and facilitator of the growth of LULAC councils.

Nationwide and in Puerto Rico, the program has reached into our public schools and community-based organizations to extend resources to at-risk high school students. Students receive access to tutoring, mentoring, college prep, career exploration, STEM workshops, and much more.

Most recently, in response to the COVID-19 crisis, Ford Fund and LULAC adapted the program to provide grants to councils in need while continuing to serve Latino communities across the nation. These grants are supporting hunger relief efforts, technology and internet connectivity needs, mental health resources, mentoring and online educational resources.

Ford Fund is honored to team up with great organizations whose strong community values align with ours. For the past 39 years, Ford Fund and LULAC have developed and expanded educational programs that strengthen communities across the map. We are very proud of this longstanding collaboration and the work we are doing together.

At Ford Fund, our goal is to create stronger communities through the support of education initiatives and continue enhancing opportunities for the people who live and work in the communities where we do business. Together, we can make a difference.

Sincerely,

Joe Ávila Manager, U.S. & Latin America Ford Motor Company Fund







In 2010, the high school graduation rate for all students in the United States was 78.2% according to data from the U.S. Department of Education. However, the rate for Hispanic students stood below the national average at 71.4% in comparison to other ethnic groups -White (83%) and Asian (93.5%).

Individuals who were not finishing high school were found to be disproportionately low-income, minority students. Although Hispanic youth have lower college enrollment and educational attainment rates, the Pew Hispanic Center found that they were just as likely as other youth to state that a college education is important to succeed in life. These studies demonstrated that there were larger structural inequities.



at play when analyzing the educational attainment of the Hispanic community.

Hispanic particularly students, low-income and first-generation, were needing to overcome multiple additional barriers to succeeding academically which included language barriers, attending underfunded public schools and overcrowded classrooms. and a standardized curriculum which did not account for the previously mentioned challenges. Furthermore, Hispanic students were rarely exposed to Hispanic teachers and role models.

Ford Motor Company had been a strong supporter of LULAC for nearly 40 years and both organizations shared a common commitment to advancing the educational attainment and opportunities for the Hispanic community. Ford Motor Company's dedication to a culturally diverse workforce has been reflected through their partnerships with professional community organizations and that seek to prepare students to become leaders in their industry and elevate minority communities.

Ford Motor Company Fund, the philanthropic arm of Ford, and LULAC Institute understood that the high school dropout issue is complex and requires creative, localized solutions that provide long term positive effects for students and communities. In response, Ford Fund and LULAC partnered to develop the



Ford Driving Dreams Grants program, previously known as Ford Driving Dreams Through Education. In 2010, they released the first request for proposals for the program. LULAC councils across the U.S. and Puerto Rico were invited to develop projects that served as high school dropout prevention initiatives and addressed barriers to educational attainment in the Hispanic community.

Ten winning proposals were selected to receive \$20,000 each to support the implementation of their proposed projects over a two-year period. Through this initiative, Ford Fund and LULAC supported top notch programs that helped stimulate academic achievement and high school through localized completion solutions. Successful proposals presented creative, localized and sustainable programs with shortand long-term measurable effects. Winning proposals build on LULAC

councils' community involvement and local insight for the successful implementation of the program.

The 2010 Ford Driving Dreams Grants Program Request for Proposals was guided by a set of guidelines that included information on the council's background, project description, budget, timeline, letter of recommendations, communications plan, among other elements.





In 2010, LULAC and Ford Fund introduced the first cohort of the Ford Driving Dreams Grants program. A total of ten LULAC councils were selected to implement high school dropout prevention initiatives tailored to their local communities. The programs took place in Arizona, California, Oklahoma, Texas and Wisconsin. The selected LULAC councils developed program models that provided students with academic assistance, extracurricular activities, and exposure to college and potential careers. These initiatives intended to serve "at-risk" youth who were struggling to stay enrolled in school and graduate from high school on time. The resources, support and role models helped students succeed academically and paved the way for future Ford Driving Dreams Grants program cohorts.

Program initiatives also served as a convener for communities by enlisting parents, mentors, volunteers and local leaders to participate and support students personally and academically. Programs with particularly high levels of community support were more successful in launching and carrying out their initiatives. Additionally, program sites that implemented service projects empowered students to become leaders in their schools and communities.

During the first two-year period, nearly 280 students were impacted by the program. Quantitative and qualitative data collected through student surveys indicated that program participants reported an increase in motivation to finish and excel in their high school career. Furthermore, several sites observed an increase in students' grades and academic achievement.

LULAC and Ford Fund's partnership through the Ford Driving Dreams Grants program made headlines during its kickoff in 2010. The innovative program model, which allowed sites to develop localized initiatives that targeted the specific challenges students in their communities faced, was welcomed by educators who often saw the challenges of implementing a one-size-fits-all curriculum. The program was featured in both English and Spanish news sources across the country. Some of the newspapers and magazines that covered the initiatives were:

- El Central Detroit, MI (4/15/2010)
- La Información Houston, TX (4/15/2010)
- Lawndale News Chicago, IL (4/15/2010)
- Dos Mundos Kansas City, KS (5/13/2010)
- Poder Enterprise (05/2010)
- El Hispano Upper Darby, PA (08/03/2010)
- The Orange County Register Orange County, CA (11/18/2010)

Ford Motor y LULAC Ayudan a Combatir la Deserción Escolar

Ford Motor Company Fund y la Liga de Ciudadanos Latinoamericanos Unidos (League of United Latin American Citizens, LULAC) se han asociado para combatir la alta tasa de deserción escolar entre estudiantes latinos en escuelas secundarias a través del país. Gracias a un nuevo programa llamado Ford Driving Dreams through Education, diez Consejos de LULAC recibirán donaciones para desarrollar proyectos que ofrecerán soluciones locales a este problema de gran importancia.

Aproximadamente el 45 por ciento de estudiantes hispanos no completan a tiempo sus estudios de escuela secundaria. Sin embargo, estudios recientes muestran que la mayoría de los estudiantes comprenden el valor de un

comprenden el diploma de secundaello no abandoestudios.

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programa recibirá Ford Motor Comllevar a cabo sus un periodo que escolares. Los cionados trabajarán con sus comuniprogramas creatisostenibles que tenaspectos educativos, sos y sistemas de apoyo Ford v LULAC Na-

Consejos de LULAC se-

Recionados bajo este hasta \$20,000 de pany Fund para proyectos durante abarca dos años Consejos selecdirecta mente dades mediante vos, localizados y drán en cuenta los así como los recurde cada una de ellas.

escuela

puestas hasta el 21 de Mayo. Los diez proyectos ganadores serán anunciados el 16 de Julio durante la Convención Nacional de LULAC ante una audiencia de más de 20,000 personas, que incluirá a destacados dirigentes gubernamentales, empresariales y de la comunidad hispana. Para más información sobre el programa Ford Driving Dreams through Education, o para presentar una propuesta, visite <u>www.lulac.org</u>.

Para más información sobre programas patrocinados por Ford Motor Company Fund and Community Services, visite <u>www.com-</u> <u>munity.ford.com</u>, <u>www.volunteer.ford.com</u> o <u>www.abrighterfuture.</u> <u>ford.com</u> LULAC and Ford Driving Dreams have given me a lot of hope and self-confidence. Going to college was my first plan. Now that teachers have spoken to me, they have shown me new doors to open. Now my dream is to become a doctor. LULAC will help my dreams become a reality.

- Cesar, Student



LULAC Council 4782, Farmers Branch, TX

Awarded LULAC Councils

LULAC Council #4782	Farmers Branch, TX
LULAC Council #4967	Houston, TX
LULAC Council #1086	Mesa, AZ
LULAC Council #19002	Midwest City, OK
LULAC Council #326	Milwaukee, WI
LULAC Council #1083	Phoenix, AZ
LULAC Council #4537	Plano, TX
LULAC Council #2055	Salinas, CA
LULAC Council #147	Santa Ana, CA
LULAC Council #4734	Temple, TX





The incredible success in the first year of the 2010-2012 Ford Driving Dreams Grants program sites was the force behind the launch of a second cohort of ten sites which would proceed to implement drop-out prevention initiatives from 2011 through 2013. During this time, LULAC and Ford Fund increased the reach of the program into 6 additional states which included Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, New York and Ohio and served over 300 students, 98% of which planned to finish high school.

Even in its initial cohorts, the success of the program was reflected in notable increases in students' focus on their school coursework, collective academic performance and motivation to finish high school and pursue higher education. Furthermore, the extracurricular program enhanced and reinforced participants' leadership skills, preparing them to become strong candidates when applying to higher education institutions.

The Ford Driving Dreams Grants program has become essential to students and educators across the U.S. as school districts face budget cuts and are forced to increase class sizes, dismiss teachers, limit extracurricular activities and provide less advanced placement program opportunities. The effects of budget cuts are felt by all educational stakeholders, but significantly impact low-income students who are in need of extra support and attention, as well as immigrant students who may struggle with language barriers and may need one-on-one help. Ford Driving Dreams is proud to serve students through mentoring, tutoring, college readiness and much more to fill some of the gaps left by school systems in students' academic journeys.

LULAC Council 9607, Kansas City, MO

LULAC Council 9607 teamed up with LNESC-Kansas City to support students in reaching their dreams of higher education. College entrance specialists helped students identify and apply for scholarships as well as provided one-on-one specialized attention to help them navigate the college application process.





LULAC Council 2848, Anaheim, CA

After participating in the program and attending the various field trips, a number of students have expressed their desire to attend college in the future. As one student noted after the Westwood College field trip "I went home and told my mom 'I want to go to college!"

- Program Coordinator

Awarded LULAC Councils

LULAC Council #2848	Anaheim, CA
LULAC Council #5218	Aurora, IL
LULAC Council #23044	Bronx, NY
LULAC Council #39004	Cincinnati, OH
LULAC Council #10	Davenport, IA
LULAC Council #39000	Dayton, OH
LULAC Council #9607	Kansas City, MO
LULAC Council #5006	Michigan City, IN
LULAC Council #23043	Syracuse,NY
LULAC Council #4692	Victoria, TX



As part of the 2012-2014 cohort, eight new LULAC councils across six states implemented high school dropout prevention programs, which served over 300 students. After participating in the program, nearly 97% of students pledged and planned to finish high school.

The Ford Driving Dreams Grants program was introduced in Maryland for the first time through this cohort. LULAC Council 21006 partnered with GapBuster, Inc. to expand the Leaders-in-Training (LIT) program in Silver Spring, MD. The LIT program supplements the academic needs of students who are considered at-risk for dropping out of high school and/or potential gang involvement through a LifeSkills curriculum. Students participated in a variety of workshops and were extremely active in their community through service projects. After participating in the program, 90% of students planned to attend a higher learning institution upon graduating from high school; 73% planned to attend a four-year college.

LULAC councils enlisted schools, local partners and the at-large community to ensure the success of their programs and leveraged the support of many partners who are committed to moving culturally diverse students with economic need towards continued success. As a result, students benefited from increased community support and guidance.

Students in the program also reported increased motivation and commitment to finishing and excelling in their high school careers. Furthermore, program coordinators reported impressive educational and professional aspirations gained by participating students.

LULAC Council 5236, Chicago, IL

While doing community service, I learned that helping others is important. I also felt a change in myself. The way I think now is very different from how I used to think before joining LULAC. ...Community service has helped me realize that being a better person affects everyone, ...and that feeling of being helpful makes me

- Ivonne, Student

LULAC Council 4969, Katy, TX

LULAC Council 3128, Oxnard, CA

LULAC Council 3207, Sacramento, CA







The LULAC/KEYS Leadership Academy program works with students from troubled backgrounds to help them re-imagine ways to change previous negative patterns and open up to possibilities through new experiences and role models.



Students explore art, music and dance classes while revisiting their cultural roots to gain a deeper understanding of themselves. Through music writing lessons, students also use their creative skills to express themselves through poetry and music.

- Damiko, Mentor

Awarded LULAC

Councils

LULAC Council #272	Dallas, TX
LULAC Council #5236	Elgin, IL
LULAC Council #4969	Katy, TX
LULAC Council #23016	Mott Haven, NY
LULAC Council #3128	Oxnard, CA
LULAC Council #23047	Queens, NY
LULAC Council #3207	Sacramento, CA
LULAC Council #21006	Silver Spring, MD
2010-2012 Grant Recipients	
LULAC Council #2055	Salinas, CA
LULAC Council #4734	Temple, TX



The 2013 Ford Driving Dreams Grants program welcomed initiatives for the first time in Colorado, Florida and New Mexico, extending the impact of the program to new communities. As a cohort, the 2013-2015 program sites engaged over 200 students.

The impact of educational initiatives, such as the Ford Driving Dreams Grants program, was reflected in the state-level increase in graduation rates as well as site metrics. It is important to note that during this period 100% of students who participated in the Ford Driving Dreams Grants program in Pueblo, CO, hosted by LULAC Council 3043, reported they planned to complete high school and 75% of students were considered first-generation and college-bound students.

In Bartow, FL, LULAC Council 7227 experienced similar success rates for their initiative. 100% of seniors in the program graduated from high school and continued to matriculate into college. Of these students, 100% were the first members in their families to enroll in college and pursue a higher education. Their program's success was due in part to the program model implemented which empowered participants' parents to be educational advocates for their children.

In addition to parent involvement, programs with strong mentorship components saw an increased interest in higher education amongst students. LULAC Council 8035 in Albuquerque, NM, engaged industry professionals and college students to serve as mentors. With their support, students were able to receive academic assistance as well as professional development opportunities. After participating in the Ford Driving Dreams Grants program, 100% of students feel it is very important to finish high school and 100% plan to attend college.

LULAC Council 4619, San Antonio, TX

Before enrolling in the Ford Driving Dreams Grants program many of the students that participated had not considered furthering their education at a college or university. Now, one of them will graduate from Texas A&M University a year early and has already been accepted to the George Bush School of Government and Public Service in College Station. In addition, four of our other students are planning on graduating next year from various schools around the state of Texas. These students may never have had the initiative to pursue the goals they now have, if not for the Ford Driving Dreams Grants program.

LULAC Council 4933, Austin, TX



LULAC Council 4933 and Austin Soundwaves connected low-income, at-risk youth in Austin, Texas, with experienced musicians and educators who serve as mentors and role models. The program's 10 hours of instruction was also supplemented by additional hours in performance opportunities such as educational field trips, learning excursions, and student performances at various venues throughout the city.

LULAC Council 1057, Tucson, AZ



100% of students who participated in the Ford Driving Dreams Grants program hosted by LULAC Council 1057 in Tucson, AZ, now think it is extremely important to go to school every day, pass all their classes, graduate from high school on time and feel extremely supported by their teachers at school.

	LULAC Council #8035	Albuquerque, NM
	LULAC Council #4933	Austin, TX
	LULAC Council #7227	Bartow, FL
	LULAC Council #8	El Paso, TX
Awarded	LULAC Council #4537	Plano, TX
LULAC	LULAC Council #3043	Pueblo, CO
Councils	LULAC Council #4619	San Antonio, TX
	LULAC Council #1057	Tucson, AZ
	2011-2013 Grant Recipients	
	LULAC Council #9607	Kansas City, MO
	LULAC Council #39000	Dayton, OH



The Ford Driving Dreams Grants program model was adapted in 2016 to meet the increasing demands of the emerging STEM workforce. The digital age has brought with it the emergence of new, high paying career opportunities; however, Latinos have been historically underrepresented in these fields. In 2013, Excelencia in Education found that only 9% of STEM degrees and certifications went to Latinos. Furthermore, a 2014-2016 Pew Research Center analysis noted that only 7% of the STEM workforce was Hispanic.

LULAC and Ford Fund are preparing students to break into in-demand STEM fields to reduce the economic and educational gaps prevalent in our communities. With the increased focus on the STEM fields and careers, Ford Driving Dreams Grants program sites are providing students with technological skills, increased exposure to STEM careers, and mentoring while still in high school. It is important to increase students' exposure to these fields at a young age to increase the representation of Latinos in STEM.

Through the different initiatives, students received tutoring and academic guidance, mentoring, college readiness, and career exploration opportunities. Many sites also implemented STEAM and technology workshops to help expand students' horizons of the possibilities available to them post-high school.

Ford Fund's commitment to increasing diversity within their workforce is reflected in their efforts to engage more Latinos in STEM at an early age through the Ford Driving Dreams Grants program. This shift in focus has helped open a world of possibilities for students who may have not considered a career in STEM prior to participating in the program. More than 210 students were positively impacted through the 2014-2016 Ford Driving Dreams Grants program cohort.

LULAC Council 5001, South Bend, IN



Students visiting Notre Dame for Shadow Day with Latino Student Union mentors. Students were able to shadow university students and get a taste of what life is like as a college student.

> Award LULAC Counci

LULAC Council 950, Atlanta, GA



Students create their very own vision boards to envision their dreams and set goals for their future. With the support of Ford Driving Dreams Grants program, students are turning their dreams into reality.

Anaheim, CA

ed ils	LULAC Council #950	Atlanta, GA	
	LULAC Council #5238	Chicago, IL	
	LULAC Council #5284	Chicago, IL	
	LULAC Council #4968	Houston, TX	
	LULAC Council #334	Milwaukee, WI	
	LULAC Council #5001	South Bend, IN	
	LULAC Council #44040	South Jordan, UT	
	2012-2014 Grant Recipient		
	LULAC Council #23047	Queens, NY	
	LULAC Council #21006	Silver Spring, MD	

LULAC Council #2848



2015 marked a significant milestone for the Ford Driving Dreams Grants program. The impactful program was selected as a Bright Spot in Hispanic Education as part of the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics. The prestigious recognition highlights the program's commitment to supporting Latino educational attainment and excellence to close the achievement gap in Hispanic education. Ford Fund's investment in communities across the U.S. and Puerto Rico has resulted in the implementation of localized solutions to address the barriers Latino students face when working to graduate from high school.

Ford Fund and LULAC understand that every community's challenges and needs are different, and there is no one solution that works for all. Therefore, we work closely with local LULAC councils, community partners and key stakeholders who best understand the needs of their students. By obtaining a better understanding, we can tailor each initiative and provide the most impactful resources to help students succeed academically.

During the 2015-2017 program cycle, over 362 students successfully completed the Ford Driving Dreams Grants program. As a cohort, students averaged a 3.1 GPA at the conclusion of the program, increasing it from a 2.9 GPA at the beginning of 2015. Furthermore, 90% of students now believe it is extremely important to graduate from high school and 96% now plan to attend college upon graduating high school.

LULAC Council 5285, Moline, IL



Council I ULAC 5285 in partnership with the Glenview Youth Mariachi Program and the One by One Program served over 75 students. The Glenview Youth Mariachi Program provides students the opportunity to gain musical training and performance experience to students' build self-esteem and confidence. The One by One Program exposes students

to higher learning so they take ownership of their education before they enter high school through university visits, community speakers and educational outreach.

LULAC Council 756, Little Rock, AR

LULAC Council 313, Chicago, IL



LULAC Council 756 provided students with personalized attention to their academic concerns which was reflected in the overall improvement of ACT scores and motivation to apply for college or a trade school. Additional focus was provided on counseling DACA and undocumented students on the resources available to them in the state of Arkansas. 100% of participants in the program were first-generation students.



LULAC Council 313 and ASPIRA developed a curriculum focused on student's emotional intelligence and critical thinking skills; along with workplace experience that lets students achieve academic excellence. Students also received weekly one-on-one and small group mentoring with mentors who expressed similar interests to theirs. The program model implemented and the individualized attention given to students resulted in high levels of success. A total of 150 students were served—115 who identified as first-generation students—and 100% of students graduated.

	LULAC Council #313	Chicago, IL
	LULAC Council #1	Corpus Christi, TX
	LULAC Council #756	Little Rock, AR
	LULAC Council #319	Milwaukee, WI
Awarded	LULAC Council #5285	Moline, IL
LULAC	LULAC Council #2862	Sacramento, CA
Councils	LULAC Council #2060	Stockton, CA
	LULAC Council #47013	Vancouver, WA
	2013-2015 Grant Recipient	
	LULAC Council #8035	Albuquerque, NM
	LULAC Council #4933	Austin, TX



The 2016-2018 Ford Driving Dreams Grants program cohort served over 288 students and expanded the reach of the program to Virginia, Oregon, Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C.

During the two-year period, program coordinators exposed students to role models, mentors and career opportunities in a variety of professional fields. These opportunities helped increase students' self-esteem by connecting them with Hispanic industry leaders who shared their experiences and tips for succeeding as a member of a minority community in America. Through the program, students also received academic assistance. Many of the participating students were getting little to no help with homework from their parents; thanks to the Ford Driving Dreams Grants program, nearly all of the students now have two or more adults who help with homework.

The first Ford Driving Dreams Grants program initiative implemented in Puerto Rico was carried out by LULAC Council 15164. Students and educators in Puerto Rico face many of the same barriers as people on the mainland. However, additional challenges such as hurricanes and high levels of poverty, make it more difficult for students to stay on track and succeed academically. As the program was being implemented, LULAC Council 15164 and their students experienced one of the biggest challenges faced by any Ford Driving Dreams Grants program to this day.

In September of 2017, Hurricane Maria, one of the deadliest category 5 hurricanes and worst natural disasters recorded, hit the island. The hurricane forced schools to close and destroyed critical infrastructure. Educators found themselves having to rebuild, literally and figuratively, and stepped up to the challenge. The Ford Driving Dreams Grants program coordinator continued to serve students and support the community during the challenging times by establishing a community garden where students could remain engaged while learning about STEM education. Furthermore, students volunteered with the elderly who were in great need.

In 2016, the high school graduation rate on the island stood at 73.9%. Through the program, students also received tutoring, PSAT prep and visited local colleges and universities. Thanks to educational initiatives, such as the Ford Driving Dreams Grants program, the high school graduation rate in Puerto Rico increased to 75.5% in 2018 and continues to rise.



LULAC Council 40002, Portland, OR

Students volunteer in their community to increase earthquake preparedness awareness.

LULAC Council 15164, Toa Alta, PR

LULAC Council 15164 hosted a Reading Marathon for Ford Driving Dreams students in which more than 250 books were read. Participating students earned prizes for their effort and commitment to learning.

LULAC Council 7, Laredo, TX

Most of the students at Jose A. Valdez Non-Traditional High School that the Ford Driving Dreams Grants program served were students who had been previously expelled or dropped out and were given a second chance. The program profoundly impacted students by providing them special attention from the school principal, teachers, counselors and organizations such as Ford Driving Dreams and LULAC.

> Awardec LULAC Councils



We were very successful. We always told our students, 'you are not students at-risk, but students of opportunity and you can achieve and be successful if you apply yourself.' Our motto is to enhance the quality of life and provide a better prepared and educated workforce for our community.

> - Jose Gonzalez, Program Coordinator

LULAC Council 4609, Arlington, VA

"During the school year, the conducted cohort studv groups, career explorations, college outlook days, participated in STEAM activities at local museums, and attended cultural events such as The Nutcracker, hosted by Southwest Virginia Ballet, and a RCPS Youth Symposium. The most memorable activity was A Day in Medical School. when the high school students were paired with medical students at the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine and shadowed the medical students for a day. Our cohort was able to visit the various labs, assist in experiments, and share personal stories during a luncheon. The capstone experience for our cohort was attending VALHEN's Hispanic College Institute, hosted by Virginia Tech"

> - Dr. Elda Stanco Downey, Program Coordinator

	LULAC Council #4609	Arlington, VA
	LULAC Council #7	Laredo, TX
	LULAC Council #333	Milwaukee, WI
	LULAC Council #40002	Portland, OR
6	LULAC Council #754	Rogers, AR
	LULAC Council #15164	Toa Alta, PR
5	LULAC Council #11125	Washington, DC
	LULAC Council #5273	Waukegan, IL
	2014-2016 Grant Recipient	
	LULAC Council #2848	Anaheim, CA
	LULAC Council #44040	Provo, UT



In 2019, program sites in two additional states became part of the Ford Driving Dreams Grants Network—Michigan and Pennsylvania.

LULAC Council 13004 teamed up with Latin Americans United for Progress (LAUP) to serve their community in Holland, MI. Together, they renovated a school that had been previously shut down due to a low census count to convert it to a community center for the purpose of housing a LULAC Empower America With Technology (EHAT) center and the Ford Driving Dreams Grants program. The established program helped students cultivate a strong sense of cultural pride and commitment to their community while preparing them to succeed after high school and pursue a higher education. The program's strong focus on helping students take pride in their cultural roots empowered them to dream higher and meet their potential. The program developed students' leadership skills through the various workshops and community service events they participated in. Students volunteered over 1,000 hours during the two-year period.

In Philadelphia, LULAC Council 20009 and LNESC-Philadelphia helped students conquer their fears and follow their dreams by incorporating fun, outdoor team building activities that increased their self-esteem and helped them understand the importance of supporting one another in their professional and personal lives. Additionally, program coordinators focused on gaining a better understanding of their students' interests and incorporated them into lessons and workshops. This inclusive and dynamic approach sparked student's interest and increased their engagement with the program.

The 2017-2019 Ford Driving Dreams Grants program cohort saw great success manifested through the participation of over 478 students, 94.2% who now report they enjoy being in school; an increase of 23.5 percentage points from 2017 (70.7%). Of the program participants, 90.7% now believe it is extremely or very important to graduate from high school.

LULAC Council 4614, Richmond, VA

LULAC Council 2890, Hollister, CA



Students in the Ford Driving Dreams Grants program hosted by LULAC Council 4614 had the opportunity to take a field trip to the NASA Langley Research Center and hear from various STEM-field professionals, including physical scientists, aerospace researchers, and systems engineers.

Students unravel mysteries as vast as the cosmos and as personal as your heartbeat in The Tech Interactive's galleries, which offer handson activities to explore how technological innovation is changing our lives. Students visited exhibits such as the Bio Design Studio, Body Metrics, Cyber Detectives, Innovation in Health Care and Social Robots amongst others.

Awarded LULAC Councils

LULAC Council #2890
LULAC Council #5294
LULAC Council #13004
LULAC Council #20009
LULAC Council #214
LULAC Council #44017
LULAC Council #4614
LULAC Council #11126
2014-2016 Grant Recipient
LULAC Council #2862
LULAC Council #313

Hollister, CAPilsen, ILHolland, MIPhiladelphia, PAHouston, TXSouth Jordan, UTRichmond, VAWashington, DCSacramento, CAChicago, IL



In 2018, Ford Fund awarded eight new councils with a two-year Ford Driving Dreams Grant. Sites in Washington, DC, California, Indiana, Texas, Washington and Wisconsin implemented high school dropout prevention programs. These initiatives focused heavily on STEM exposure and college guidance.

LULAC Council 340 in Milwaukee, WI, partnered with El Puente High School to implement a dual enrollment program, which allowed high school students to experience college while being in a supportive environment with access to mentors and tutors. The program helped increase college enrollment as well as boost students' self-esteem and sense of accomplishment. Students who participated in the program graduated high school confident that they can and will succeed in anything they set their mind to.

In Chesterton, IN, LULAC Council 5016 helped students prepare for college by hosting tutoring sessions to increase their academic performance as well as FAFSA Nights to help them complete the application. This program also increased students' interest in STEM fields through field trips, technology activities, computer programs and podcast development.

As sites were about to conclude the two-year program, the Coronavirus disease spread and completely altered their previously planned activities. However, program coordinators stepped up to revise their program activities to provide students, many who were graduating, much needed guidance and emotional support. Furthermore, program coordinators found creative ways to celebrate their students' accomplishments when school graduations had to be cancelled due to health and safety measures.

LULAC Council 47013, Vancouver, WA

LULAC Council 11041, Washington, D.C.



Students participated in the Latino Legislative Day, a civic engagement event that took place at the state capitol in Olympia, WA, where they participated in workshops led by youth and focused on current issues. They also got to hear from the State Governor and Attorney General.



LULAC Council 11041 and the highly regarded dance school, Fundación Elena, are supporting underserved Latino students by blending college preparation and cultural enrichment activities. Their program model draws on Hispanic traditions, focusing on several key traits—strength, perseverance, imagination—to help cultivate student success and eliminate barriers to reach high school graduation through community and civic engagement.

Awarded LULAC Councils

LULAC Council #5016	Chesterton, IN
LULAC Council #11041	Washington, DC
LULAC Council #340	Milwaukee, WI
LULAC Council #47013	Vancouver, WA
LULAC Council #3026	Oxnard, CA
LULAC Council #5025	South Bend, IN
LULAC Council #9	El Paso, TX
LULAC Council #22294	Big Spring, TX
2016-2018 Grant Recipient	
LULAC Council #5273	Waukegan, IL
LULAC Council #15164	Toa Alta, PR



In 2019, LULAC proudly celebrated 90 years of serving Hispanic communities across the U.S. and Puerto Rico. It's legacy of advancing the educational attainment of Hispanics has been at the forefront of the advocacy and community work LULAC has led throughout the years.

In 1931, only two years after its formation, LULAC provided the organization for the *Salvatierra vs. Del Rio Independent School District* case, the first-class action lawsuit against segregated "Mexican Schools" in Texas. In the years following, LULAC formed a committee in San Antonio which led to the formation of the *Liga Defensa Pro-Escolar*, later known as the "School Improvement League," that fought for better schools and better education and successfully worked to integrate various school systems that segregated Mexican children. In the late 1950s, LULAC Council 60 in Houston, TX, piloted the "Little School of the 400" project, a preschool program dedicated to teaching 400 basic English words to Spanish speaking children, which later became "Project Head Start" under the Lyndon B. Johnson administration.

In 2019, eight additional LULAC councils were selected to carry LULAC's legacy of advancing the educational attainment of Latinos through the Ford Driving Dreams Grants program. This current cohort has excelled in their first year of programming despite being met by the unique challenges of serving students during the Coronavirus pandemic. Their adaptability has been an example to follow for educators and extracurricular programs across the country. When the pandemic struck and schools closed, Ford Driving Dreams program coordinators transitioned to online/virtual formats and adapted their program models to ensure students were receiving the attention and resources they needed, with special focus given to their mental wellbeing.

90th Annual LULAC National Convention in Milwaukee, WI



As a person, I learned a lot about how important it is to help those in need. Had it not been for Waukegan to College, Ford Driving Dreams and LULAC to encourage me to volunteer, I think I would not have understood what it means to impact someone. I am thankful to LULAC and Ford Fund for this opportunity.

- Erick Castrejon, LULAC Council 5273, Waukegan, IL (2019 @ LULAC National Convention in Milwaukee, WI)

LULAC Council 3272,

Buttonwillow, CA

It was a highlight to watch the students learn and grow so much. To see their curiosity sparked as they watched presentations and learned about programs available to them at different colleges, as they saw their grades improve from tutoring, and to hear them express their gratitude that they knew they had someone on their side supporting and encouraging them.

- Lauren Gillespie, Program Coordinator

LULAC Council 22325, Austin, TX



The Ford Driving Dreams Grants program has been able to help me learn more about the different fields in STEM and the different levels of careers there are... Through exploring many different STEM-fields I discovered I had a passion for astronomy and decided that I would probably minor in it in college.

- Zarqa Fatima, Student

Awarded LULAC Councils

LULAC Council #1208	Tucson, AZ
LULAC Council #3272	Buttonwillow, CA
LULAC Council #2848	Anaheim, CA
LULAC Council #5296	Woodstock, IL
LULAC Council #371	Muscatine, IA
LULAC Council #310	West Liberty, IA
LULAC Council #14834	Cataño, PR
LULAC Council #22325	Austin, TX
2017-2019 Grant Recipient	
LULAC Council #5294	Pilsen, IL
LULAC Council #20009	Philadelphia, PA



In March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) disease a pandemic. Following this announcement, the United States declared the outbreak a national emergency and states proceeded to take important measures to slow the spread of the disease. During the months following this declaration, the lives and routines for most individuals became impacted drastically. Schools and non-essential businesses closed temporarily, and essential businesses continued to operate at a limited capacity and with strict guidelines.

As a result of the rapid spread and the need for every individual to use personal protective equipment when out in public, some hospitals and medical supplies stores experienced shortages in personal protective equipment and medical supplies. In response, many private corporations stepped up to fill the shortages and support their communities across the nation and the world.

In response to the COVID-19 public health crisis, Ford Motor Company, in collaboration with GE Healthcare, began producing in Michigan a third-party ventilator with the goal to produce 50,000 of the vitally needed units within 100 days and up to 30,000 a month thereafter as needed.

Ford Fund immediately directed more than \$500,000 to nonprofit groups in southeast Michigan and supported delivery of food to senior citizens and to thousands of children who do not have access to school meals. Furthermore, Ford Fund is providing assistance through its national partner nonprofits to diligently respond appropriately to the rapidly changing situation while continuing to serve Latino communities across the nation. Ford Driving Dreams, in collaboration with LULAC and as part of their COVID-19 Relief Fund, provided \$2,000 grants to LULAC councils in the Ford Driving Dreams Network to support Hispanic students during the COVID-19 pandemic and provide direct relief efforts in their communities.

LULAC councils carried out 40 COVID-19 response initiatives to provide relief efforts focused on access to technology, hunger relief, mobility/transportation, mental health coaching, mentoring and online educational support. Through these initiatives, councils reached nearly 14,000 individuals and families and helped them meet their basic needs.

LULAC Council 310, West Liberty, IA - Hunger Relief

LULAC Council 4619, San Antonio, TX - Technology

LULAC Council 4614, Richmond, VA



LULAC Council 310 partnered several community with organizations, including but not limited to: First Church United, West Liberty Youth Dream Catchers, City of West Liberty, and West Liberty Community Center to combat food insecurity in West Liberty, IA. Together, they planted, cultivated, and harvested produce in garden plots to provide fresh produce for distribution through the West Liberty Food Pantry and to low income citizens.

In addition to raising and distributing produce, LULAC Council 310 organized and provided online lessons on how to prepare healthy and tasty meals using the fresh produce.





LULAC Council 4619 made sure Ford Driving Dreams alumni were prepared to succeed in their online college courses by providing Chromebooks to students who did not have access to a computer at home.

LULAC Council 2055, Salinas, CA - Hunger Relief

LULAC Council 2055 has teamed up with the Monterey County Food Bank to provide hunger relief by distributing food to low-income families. Due to the increased need during the pandemic, the food bank quickly ran out of food. However, LULAC council members and volunteers stepped up to continue to refill the food pantry to make sure no one in their community goes hungry. From March through July, they hosted 23 food distribution events each serving between 800 to 900 families



Region LULAC Richmond Council 4614 developed a virtual tutoring and mentoring platform in response to the COVID-19 health crisis to support students facing the school closures. Their team and partners focus on delivering a holistic approach to the immediate needs of the student and their families with a primary focus on ensuring an education continuum. As of March 31, over 65 volunteers had signed up to be tutors and mentors.

LULAC Council 23016, Mott Haven, NY - Mental Health

LULAC Council 23016 is connecting students to mental health services to support them and their families through the pandemic. Since the closing of the schools in March, over 270 students have received 45-minute counseling sessions to mitigate the negative impacts of COVID-19 on their wellbeing.

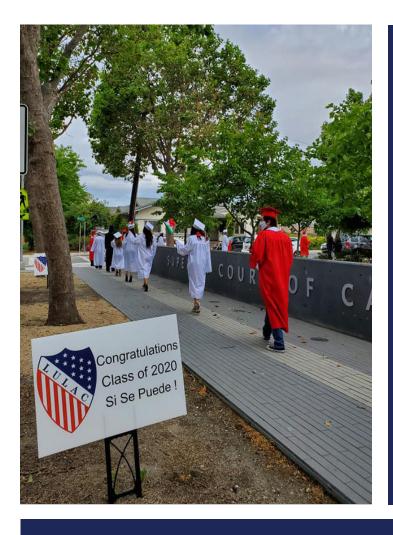


2020 Unconventional Graduations

The COVID-19 pandemic deeply impacted students around the world. Abrupt school closures left many children with little to no academic instruction and in particular low-income districts in which schools did not have the proper resources to implement remote learning. Furthermore, many families found themselves without the internet connectivity and technology resources to support the engagement of their children in remote learning. Additionally, many parents and guardians lacked proper computer literacy skills to help children access lessons, tutoring, or virtual classrooms.

In addition to the support LULAC and Ford Fund provided to students and their families through the Ford Driving Dreams COVID-19 Response Grants, active sites responded to the new challenges by rapidly adapting their program models, ensuring students had access to the necessary equipment to succeed in their online coursework and connecting students with tutors and mentors to help them stay on track academically. Additionally, they provided mental health resources and coping mechanisms to address the increased stress and anxiety students and their families were experiencing. Their hard work, dedication and commitment to students and their families was reflected in every action they took.

High school seniors were particularly impacted by the uncertainties caused by the pandemic and in need of additional support. On-site program coordinators stepped up to assist them in finding out how their post-high school plans would be affected, especially for students who had plans to attend post-secondary institutions, and provided them with necessary resources to be prepared. Additionally, many sites held creative and unique graduation celebrations to honor the hard work of their seniors, many of whom are first-generation students.



LULAC Council 2890, Hollister, CA Graduation Walk

San Benito County LULAC Council 2890 held a special celebration for graduating students and their families. During the Graduation Walk, parents, grandparents, community members and leaders proudly cheered on students who celebrated the closing of their high school careers and the start of a new journey. The walk was followed by an outdoor ceremony to commemorate their achievements. Many of those celebrated were first-generation, DACA recipients and college-bound students.



New Vistas High School Diploma

DAUJAH WEBB



Favorite NEO memory: I will remember creating bonds with the teachers and students

Moment of pride: I am proud of deciding to go back to school my junior year.

Thank you: I would like to thank all the teachers for pushing me and believing in me. I want to thank Mrs. Kochan and Mr. Pryor for pushing me to do better and to not give up.

Message to mu classmates: Students, I encourage you to keep going in life. Don't look down but look ahead. Keep your eyes on the prize. Don't let anyone come in between your goal. Keep going and don't give up. Life is hard but make the best out of it. You're better than what you think you are. You can achieve great things. You will succeed.

LULAC Council 5016, Chesterton, IN - Virtual Graduation

LULAC Council 5016 and their educational partner, Neighbors' Educational Opportunities, celebrated students through an interactive website which features virtual graduation speeches and spotlights each graduating student, their favorite memory of being involved in the organization and their plans for their future. To explore the website, visit www.neoadulted.org/graduation2020.

Thank you Ford Motor Company Fund!







By allowing students to see all of the possibilities beyond their small community gives them hope and allows them to see what is possible for them to achieve. You don't know what you don't know. The more we share with the youth of our communities, the more they will know and the more possibilities they will have! Thank you again for this great program and bringing it to the children of the South Bronx.

> – Ralina Cardona, Member of LULAC Council 23016 & LULAC National VP of the Northeast

LULAC Council 4609, Arlington, VA



On behalf of LULAC Council 4609, VALHEN, RCPS, and our partner organizations, we thank you profusely for the opportunity you have given our students. While we work endlessly to "open the door" for our Latinx youth, this Ford Driving Dreams grant allowed us to "hold it open a bit wider" for the Roanoke cohort. We look forward to our continued partnerships, and we hope this invaluable FDD Grant continues to make dreams a reality for young Latinx students across the country. ¡Adelante!

Con mucho agradecimiento

Leni González, President, LULAC Council 4609 Vivian Sánchez-Jones, Roanoke City Public Schools Dr. Elda Stanco Downey, VALHEN Executive Director & Roanoke Spanish CEO + Founder

San Benito County Office of Education, San Benito County, CA

It is with great pleasure that I ... celebrate the amazing work the San Benito County LULAC Council leads with students across the country, utilizing Ford Driving Dreams grant monies. During the pandemic, our students packed and delivered food to our farmworker families to ensure our farmworkers were cared for. Our students have hosted food drives to collect food for families in need as well as assisting our senior citizen community with yard cleanups. ... I am proud to be an integral part of the endeavor and have watched our students become successful young adults that contribute to their communities.

– Krystal Lomanto, San Benito County Superintendent of Schools

Hollister School District, Hollister, CA



The hallmark of any successful educational grant program is the measure of student engagement. In this regard, the Ford Driving Dreams has been a huge success in San Benito County. ... This program has allowed our young people to show grace and kindness to [farmworkers] who do so much to keep us all fed.

- Diego Ochoa, Superintendent, Hollister School District

San Benito High School, Hollister, CA



The Podemos Educational Program has supported our students in reaching their goal of graduating from high school and being prepared to be successful in their postsecondary education. LULAC's track record of building leaders among our youth is well evident. Icouldn'tthink of a better organization to continue providing our students with support in meeting their academic goals and community-based leadership skills.

– Adrian Ramirez, San Benito High School Principal



All of the [Ford Driving Dreams Grants program] experiences provided our students with the opportunity to advocate for change, experience leadership, and become involved in bettering our community. The Ford Motor Company Fund makes these outstanding programs viable and sustainable for our most "at-opportunity" students. I look forward to the creativity and innovation Ford Driving Dreams, Podemos and LULAC will continue to exercise as they persist in finding ways to build their programs in spite of the difficulties created by our current pandemic.

- Lisa Jelinek, Principal, San Benito County Alternative Education Programs

LULAC Council 2055, Salinas, CA



I [want to] personally thank you and the rest of the Ford Motor Company Fund team for the Ford Driving Dreams grant that was awarded to Salinas LULAC Council 2055. ... Donations like the Ford Driving Dreams grant have been crucial in our efforts to feed our local families.

- Christopher A. Barrera, President, Salinas LULAC Council 2055

La Casa de Amistad Youth & Community Center, South Bend, IN

As the to-go Latino Youth and Community Center in South Bend, we are aware of the special needs and challenges of the immigrant Latino community in our city, especially of the needs of our youth. Programming designed and catered for Latinx youth has been a proven benefit for their academic success, for curving the school-to-jail pipeline, and to provide the necessary support for students to grow and develop into responsible and caring members of our community. It also has other lasting effects that reach beyond the youth and branch out not only to their families but also for the whole community.

Our Adelante program, which has been partly funded by LULAC's Ford Driving Dreams Grants for several years, has helped the youth in our community have access to academic support, to provide a safe environment, and to help youth and their families on their road to higher education be it traditional college, technical college, trades, or any other path that leads to the success of our youth.

Many of our youth have been able to graduate high school after having a rocky start and have matriculated successfully into college, now pursuing degrees in engineering, physics, nursing, business, education and much more. Others have decided to go into the workforce and get technical training and join the trades and unions in our community to become HVAC techs, plumbers, electricians, carpenters, welders and much more.

La Casa de Amistad is committed to partnering with LULAC and its Ford Driving Dreams Grants program to continue to serve and help our youth and to make our program a success. We believe that by continuing our work with the help of Ford Driving Dreams Grants, we can have a strong and dramatic impact in South Bend and in our local community.

We are pleased to work with you to continue to support and facilitate opportunities for our youth to develop the skills for a better education, leadership, programming, cultural awareness and outreach. Thank you for all that you do to improve the educational opportunities for our youth and their families in the community.

- Sam Centellas, Executive Director, La Casa de Amistad Youth & Community Center



El Puente High School, Milwaukee, WI



El Puente High School, located in Milwaukee, WI hosts a dual enrollment program that, since 2017, has sent 73 students to college classes while still attending high school. Ford Driving Dreams has provided ongoing support to this successful program. Many of our students took more than one college course before graduation, an accomplishment that allowed them to walk the stage with as many as ten college credits. Seeing those students leave our school confident in their ability to pursue post-secondary education fills the El Puente family with pride. Many of our dual-enrollment graduates return to El Puente to visit. Hearing about their lives after graduation is even more gratifying than seeing them walk the stage.

One such student who stands out is Brayan Arias. When Brayan began the dualenrollment program, he proved to be a dedicated student who was willing to go above and beyond. Brayan, along with being an active member in his community, graduated from El Puente with ten college credits. Brayan is truly a courteous, generous, and caring role model. He is a mature and well-rounded individual who brings joy to others.

This combination of leadership and dedication has been present both on and off El Puente's campus. Even when he is busy, Brayan is always willing to give advice, help with revisions, or encourage a classmate in need. As Brayan recently finished up his senior year, he honed not just his academic skills, but his ability to communicate professionally. The experience Brayan has had in the college classroom has helped him do more than earn credits, it has helped him prepare for the professional world, something he is now able to approach with confidence. El Puente's students are incredibly grateful for the gift of these opportunities. Ford Driving Dreams' belief in their ability to succeed has motivated these students to see themselves as people full of potential; people with lives that feature endless possibilities. In our midst are budding psychologists, nurses, mechanics, and graphic designers. Each year we are amazed at how uniquely wonderful our dual-enrollment students are, and are excited for them as they grow and discover what awaits them in college. Thanks to the Ford Motor Company Fund for contributing to the ongoing success of our students both within and beyond the walls of El Puente.

We hope future students believe in their own ability to find great success, because everyone has the potential to do anything they set their sights on. With perseverance, the right supports, and dedication, our students can change the world.

- El Puente High School

El Puente High School is committed to providing a small, safe, and nurturing learning environment in which students focus on becoming contributing members of society. We believe that a solid and well-rounded academic education is the essential cornerstone in building a successful future for each of our students.

LULAC Council 47013, Vancouver, WA

The greatest asset to the **program has been** helping students navigate support services like after school tutoring, help with test taking registration, and taking the appropriate steps to apply for college. It has been a pleasure to provide a space where students from all backgrounds can voice their opinions and collaborate for initiatives of their choosing. ...I want to thank Ford Motor Company Fund for their important educational investment to the underrepresented community in East Vancouver, WA. I also want to thank the League of United Latin American Citizens for their commitment to high school retention and leadership.

- Oswaldo Camarena, Ford Driving Dreams Grants Program Coordinator & Director, LNESC Upward Bound Project

LULAC Council 5016, Chesterton, IN

Even with emerging challenges resulting from the current pandemic situations, our students will have the opportunity to learn more about themselves and possible careers because of the Ford Driving Dreams Grants program. Students will find appropriate ways to interact with LULAC Council 5016 members. Students will learn to maneuver and interact more effectively and competitively in the virtual world, both academically and as they pursue career options. Students will learn to appreciate the value of community involvement and take pride in the impacts they can have upon their 'corner of the world' because of the opportunities provided through the Ford Driving Dreams Grant.

On their behalf, we thank you for your investment in the future and dreams of these youth.

- Leticia Munguia, Ford Driving Dreams Grants Program Coordinator & Member, LULAC Council 5016

Where are they now?



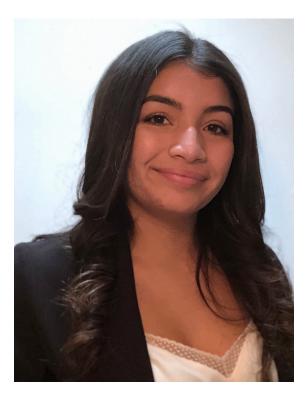
LULAC Council 4619, San Antonio, TX (2013-2015 Cohort)

My name is Jacqueline Guerra, and I am a first-generation Latina graduate. I graduated summa cum laude from Texas A&M University—College Station with a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies and a minor in Arabic Studies in May 2020. As an undergraduate student, I studied abroad in Morocco on fully funded academic scholarships. I was a member of the Council of Minority Student Affairs (CMSA) and a mentor for first-generation college students through a program named Aggies Collegiates Ready To Explore the World (ACREW). Most recently, I completed an internship for a nonprofit organization called the Brazos Interfaith Immigration Network

(BIIN), who advocate for the immigrant community and provide access to legal, educational and social services. I have a passion for serving marginalized communities and look forward to applying my studies to state and local government. This upcoming fall semester I will be a first-year graduate student at the Texas A&M Bush School of Government and Public Service. I will be working towards obtaining my Masters in Public Service and Administration with an emphasis in Public Management.

I have been impacted by the LULAC organization in numerous ways, from participating in the Ford Driving Dreams program my senior year of high school, to actively being part of our LULAC adult council. I am living proof of the positive impact they have on students like myself who are first-generation and Latinx. I attribute my academic and personal success to organizations like LULAC who have provided me with the services to be able to stay involved and active in my community. I had the honor of attending state and national conventions and have enjoyed my time spent volunteering and assisting at the pre-registration booths. I was also able to facilitate the voting polls on election day during the summer national convention in Phoenix, Arizona. As a council, we attended various professional and education trainings that were offered during the state and local conventions that allowed me to grow as a student and individual. I was able to listen and learn from individuals who hold certain positions of power in LULAC; I listened to lawyers, government officials, and public servants discuss their journeys and the need to advance and advocate for the economic and social conditions of the Latinx community in the United States. The LULAC organization has allowed me to meet individuals from all over the country who all share a common goal of ensuring the Latinx community is represented

throughout the country. I take pride in being Latina and want to continue being an advocate of change by confronting the issues marginalized communities face. I am inspired to become an advocate of change in the community and work in state and local government. I am still involved with BIIN and currently volunteering with their "Linea Amiga" hotline that provides access to information and references to services for COVID-19 in Spanish, to assist the local community in Bryan and College Station during the pandemic. In all, I have loved and enjoyed my involvement with LULAC. The organization has provided me with numerous experiences and



- Jacqueline Guerra, Ford Driving Dreams and Texas A&M Class of 2020 Alumni

LULAC Council 8035, Albuquerque, NM (2013-2015 Cohort)

The Ford Driving Dreams Grants program impacted me by providing the necessary resources throughout high school to pursue a higher education without having student loans.

I am the youngest of three girls, and I am a first-generation college student. My single mother was always supportive of my dreams to travel and get a degree. That was all made possible with the assistance of programs such as this one. Attending university was difficult at times, with working full time and attending college full time, but I was able to graduate in five years and am looking to continue my education in the future.

> Crystal Loya, Ford Driving Dreams and University of New Mexico Class of 2020 Alumni

LULAC Council 8035, Albuquerque, NM (2013-2015 Cohort)

The Ford Driving Dreams Grants program impacted me by allowing me to see all the opportunities out there and helping me set goals to obtain these academic achievements. I would not have had the enthusiasm I have had these years without the help I received in high school.

Ailyn Arroyos, Ford Driving Dreams and University of New Mexico Class of 2020 Alumni

Ailyn is currently attending graduate school at the University of New Mexico where she is pursuing an MBA and is Secretary of the Association for Latino Professionals for America (ALPFA). Ailyn is a first-generation college student.











CELEBRATING 10-YEARS OF DRIVING EDUCATION FURTHER