



Los Ojos de la Familia
LA VISTA Newsletter
February 26, 2016

2016 Spring General Scholarship Awards
Congratulations Recipients!!

We are so proud of each of these exemplary students!
You are our future!

Each semester we receive several impressive applications from some of New Mexico's brightest students, seeking to improve themselves and their community with continuing education. Each of the winners received a \$500 scholarship check, made out to their respective schools.

We are proud to be a part of helping them shape our future together. If you take a moment to read their stories, we know you'll be just as proud of them, and proud to be a part of this community-focused charity.



Mariela Hernandez is a senior at University of New Mexico, double-majoring Communications & Journalism and Spanish. This semester, she earned her place as a student intern in Washington D.C. for Talk Radio News Service. This fantastic opportunity has given her access to Congress and the White House. She will graduate with her BA in May, and she plans to continue in her education, and has applied for her Master degree in Mass Communication this fall. We are excited to see what the future holds for this motivated and hard-working young woman!

Fernanda Banda is a senior graduating this spring from Rio Grande High School, and going to UNM this fall; she will be the first in her family to attend college. Raised by a single parent, Fernanda learned an early sense of hard work and accomplishment. She is involved in several extracurricular activities, and she values hard work and discipline. Her dream is to become of Medical Physicist, so she can make a positive impact on the health and lives of others in the community. We look forward to seeing Dr. Fernanda Banda!

Francesca Mariscal is a sophomore at CNM studying to be a pharmacy technician. She has volunteered for Los Ojos de la Familia from the beginning, as well as her church. She credits her school, church and LODLF with helping her to become self-confident and responsible. She says she has learned the importance of commitment and relationships, as well as being a good influence to younger generations. After she completes her Pharmacy Tech certification, she wants to work on obtaining her Photography degree and opening her own studio. Best of luck to this devoted young lady!

Quiana Ortega is currently attending UNM to obtain her Nursing degree, and she describes herself as dependable and self-driven, with the ability to adapt quickly to changing circumstances. She loves working with people and often volunteers with Los Ojos, Roadrunner Food bank and other community organizations. She wants to obtain her Bachelor of Science degree to help her make a tangible impact on her community and give back to her home state of New Mexico. Keep up the great work, Quiana!

Elsa Martinez learned English as a second language when she was in middle school, and though she struggled through language difficulties, discrimination and bullying, she pushed herself to excel. She credits her ESL teacher as her inspiration to become a teacher, by encouraging her, translating for her, and helping her through school. She wants to help other students who struggle because of their backgrounds, and she hopes to teach all students that appearance does not define a person's value, potential, or soul. She wants to work with young children to help them learn without stereotyping, to bring the community together, with a generation free from negative labels. We are glad to be able to help Elsa strive toward a better future for our community.

Kaitlyn Clark is a honor-roll senior graduating from Albuquerque Academy, whose holds education, as well as friendship and family, as her top priorities. She is excited to start at UNM this fall, on her way to a degree in Business Administration, and she hopes to continue with a Master's degree immediately afterward. She is also working part time, and has a newborn son whom she hopes to be a role model to him and others, and teach, by example perseverance, dedication and adaptability. We are glad to be able to help Kaitlyn on her road to success.

Leroy Sandoval is a freshman at UNM, studying Business Administration, who feels that his college career thus far has helped him learn much about himself. He has learned the value of good time management, teamwork and companionship, through his schoolwork and participation in university sports. He is proud of his hard work and the skills he is acquiring through school and his job, and he continues to work toward growing as a student, a contributing member of society and a future leader. We are behind you,

Leroy, keep it up!

Matthew Lucero is also a freshman at UNM, and he is working on his degree in Physical Education. In addition to school, he is also the head coach of the Belen Middle School wrestling team. His family is going through several difficult circumstances, including cancer and divorce, and he has had to take ownership of his own education and put himself and his sister through college. He plans to use his degree to help others improve themselves physically and mentally, and he enjoys seeing the pride grow in each of his students as they see their own progress. We are proud to help him continue in his position as a role model and a community leader.

Robyn Lee Lucero is a young woman pursuing her Business Administration degree at UNM Valencia, with her brother Matthew (above). She has learned all too quickly the necessity of time management as she works to balance school, internship and part time work, as well as the same family hardships her brother is now facing. She feels her strengths are her positive attitude, willingness to help and good organizational skills. She is proud to be a role model to her brother, and she treasures her education and wants to continue growing as a student and a person. We are glad to be able to help her keep going and become the best she can be.

Shae Lucero is a sophomore, who is transferring this semester, from CNM to New Mexico State University, where is studying Animal Science. Although she is nervous about moving away from her family, she is excited to obtain her first degree, and after that, move to a school where she can earn her degree in Veterinary Medicine. She plans to work as much as possible while maintaining good grades. She is not afraid of hard work or sacrifice, and she knows that her struggle will be work the reward of achieving her dream. We applaud your vision, Shae, and we know your hard work and compassion for animals will make you a great veterinarian!

Cesar Miranda began his first job when he was only 15, in order to help his mother care for their family. He will be the first in his family to go to college, and he plans to obtain three degrees, in Communication, Spanish and Business. From a young age he became involved in his community, attending neighborhood meetings and getting involved in community action. He has studied and taught the Martin Luther King Jr path of non-violence to juvenile inmates, and firmly believes in the importance of giving back to the community. Cesar is the kind of student we are eager to help, as we know he has done and will continue do much for our community.

Rafael Colon is a graduating senior who was in an accident as a boy, which took one of his eyes. Rather than losing hope, he plans to go to George Washington University, to earn his degree in Biomedical Engineering. He learned from his youth never to take anything for granted and to give back whenever possible. He has volunteered in school as wells as with Alta Mira and the Ronald McDonald house. He wants to use his degree to give others hope and find new solutions in the medical field. He plans to bring his knowledge back to New Mexico to help make this state great! We're with you, Rafael!

Los Ojos de la Familia is registered with United Way Northern New Mexico



and we encourage you to consider asking that your donations go toward this charity.

Ask your benefits administrator how you can designate LODLF as your charity of choice.

[United Way Contribution Form](#)

For a full calendar of assistance and scholarship deadlines, visit our website

www.losjosdelafamilia.org

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