

# Annual Report Summary 2022-2023





## A Message from East Los Angeles College President Alberto J. Román

As East Los Angeles College continues to strive to increase equitable educational access and success for our students it should be recognized that the East Los Angeles College (ELAC) Foundation continues to be an integral partner with the college. There are many ways in which the ELAC Foundation has supported the mission of the college. For example, the ELAC Foundation helps students by securing funds for a variety of scholarships to ease the financial burden that students face and make college more affordable. Our faculty and staff also benefit from the funding that is provided by the ELAC foundation for special activities, events, and projects carried out by the faculty and staff that directly support our students.

The ELAC Alumni Association also undertakes many important endeavors for ELAC students and does so with the help of the Foundation. The ELAC Foundation also plays an instrumental role in assisting the college with developing partnerships with community agencies, local businesses, and philanthropists who support education. This report documents the range and scope of efforts the ELAC Foundation has accomplished for the benefit of the college and students. There are stories about prominent donors, prominent alumni, a new fundraising campaign to meet basic needs, new partnerships, and several other important topics.

The excellent work of the ELAC Foundation could not be achieved without the hard work and generosity of the ELAC Foundation Board of Directors and Its Executive Committee. I want to thank each and every one of them for their unwavering dedication and leadership and I know they will carry their success into the next fiscal year and beyond.

A non-profit Foundation like the ELAC Foundation is dependent on the willingness of many people to support its urgent, necessary and important work. There are hundreds of donors to the ELAC Foundation who provided the ongoing support that keeps the Foundation growing and moving forward to reach its student-centered goals and aspirations. I am grateful to those many donors for their continued support. The ELAC Foundation had a terrific year and let's hope that the next years only get better!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alberto J. Román". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "A" and "R".

Dr. Alberto J. Román  
President, East Los Angeles College



## A Message from East Los Angeles College Foundation Board of Directors President Marissa B. Castro-Salvati

Over seven years ago, I joined the East Los Angeles College (ELAC) Foundation Board with a mission to support East Los Angeles College (ELAC) and empower the students and communities we serve through our commitment to student success. This includes providing vital services for low-income members of our College and community that advance equity in education, such as: awarding need-based financial resources, providing basic human needs including food, housing, clothing, and transportation; furnishing devices to bridge the digital divide; and promoting social welfare.

I am delighted to share with you that over the last year, we have not only continued our mission serving thousands of our students and their families with scholarships and other financial needs, but we also continue to expand. I am pleased to report that we have grown both in overall support and with new Board Members over the past year, making our Board one of the most diverse boards in the region.

With the support and generosity of community leaders and donors, we have provided more resources to ELAC students and their families. Furthermore, 2022-2023 marks one of the most successful philanthropic years in the history of the Foundation despite all the challenges due to the pandemic. Not only has our Board Membership grown, but so have our in-kind donations,

non-restricted donations, and the number of scholarships with the highest number of dollars and awardees in the history of the Foundation, with 520 scholars being awarded a total of \$398,717 in scholarships. Furthermore, we honored Dolores Huerta with the President's Leadership Award, CA State Senator Susan Rubio with the President's Alumnus of the Year Award, Dr. Zoila D. Escobar, Executive Vice President & Chief Administrative Officer, and President of the AltaMed Foundation, with the President's Woman of the Year Award, and Ms. Rosa E. Mendoza with the ELAC 2022 President's Student Leadership Award at our 2022 President's Gala titled "Building Our Communities, One Student at A Time."

The future of ELAC is optimistic, and with your continued support, we will be able to push onward.

On behalf of the students and the rest of the Foundation Family, I thank you for your continued support. Through your enduring efforts, the Foundation is Transforming Lives by investing in the next generation of leaders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marissa B. Castro-Salvati". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marissa B. Castro-Salvati  
President, East Los Angeles College  
Foundation Board of Directors

# 2022-2023: A YEAR OF TRANSFORMING LIVES

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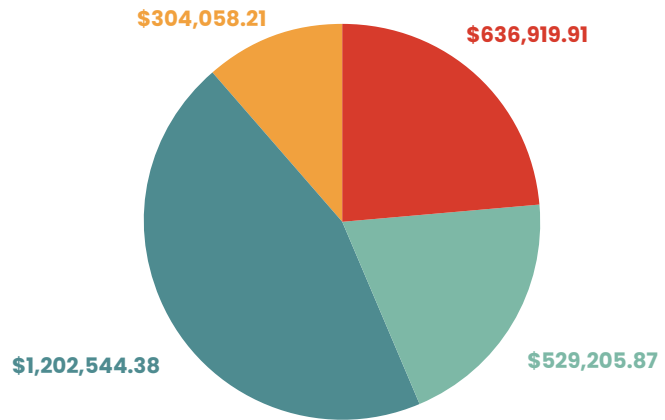
# FINANCIALS

## ELACF FY 2022 – 2023 Revenue (by Source)

● Contributions and Scholarships	\$636,919.91
● Grant Revenue	\$529,205.87
● Contracts	\$1,202,544.38
● Gains in Investment	\$304,058.21
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$2,672,728.37</b>

Notes:

- Contributions include \$213,888.00 for the 2022 President Gala.
- Grant Revenue includes \$280,000 received from College Futures Foundation on May 6, 2022. Actual total revenue is \$2,392,728.00.

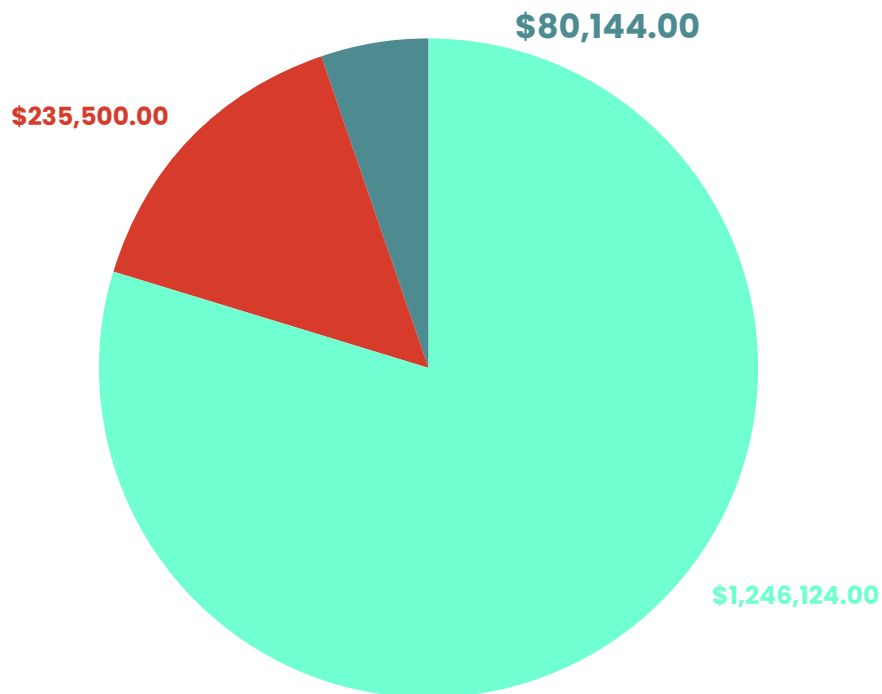


## ELACF FY 2022 – 2023 Stipends and Scholarships Awarded

Awards	Total Funds	# of Students
Stipends (monthly from November 2022 to June 2023)	\$295,425.00	48
Scholarships (Fall 2022 and Spring 2023)	\$202,501.25	242
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$497,926.25</b>	<b>290</b>

## FY 2022 – 2023 Expenses (Programs Funded)

● Program Services (College and Student Support)	\$1,246,124.00
● Development and Fundraising (includes Pres. Gala and 75th Anniversary)	\$235,500.00
● Management and General	\$80,144.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,561,768.00</b>



# East Los Angeles College Annual President's Gala

East Los Angeles College held its Annual President's Gala at the Taglyan Complex on Friday, December 2, 2022.

The Annual President's Gala is the time to celebrate the community at ELAC. The night started off with cocktails and a silent auction. The guests were greeted by the Husky cheerleaders and mariachis. During the auction, the guests had a chance to bid on rare comic books, jewelry, and a PlayStation 5.

The ELAC Foundation is dedicated to the philanthropic support of the ELAC community and the empowerment of the surrounding communities to serve the commitment to student success.

The ceremony was hosted by Argelia Atilano co-host of "El Show de Omar

y Argelia" on Mega 96.3 FM. Marissa Castro Salvati, Foundation president, welcomed everyone to the Gala.

"Tonight's theme, building our communities, one student at a time. We'll celebrate ELAC students, our communities, leaders, and the Foundation's commitment to empowering them through student success as we are slowly rebuilding our communities post COVID-19 pandemic," Salvati said.

Atilano said as a Latina, it was tough to push through all the barriers that were along the way in her journey.

"ELAC was there for me, being able to get an education for free and being able to show my two daughters que si se puede, just means the world to me," Atilano said.







**“This is a symbol of the Chicano movement right here tonight. Education is going to be the savior of our democracy,” Huerta said.**

Zolia D. Escobar was the first to receive an award. She received the 2022 ELAC President’s Woman of the Year Award. Escobar is the Alta Med Foundation Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer of Alta Med Health Services. She is dedicated to leveling disparities in health care and combines her personal insight into the Latino experience.

California state senator Susan Rubio, was given the 2022 Alumnus of the Year award. She was elected to the California State Senate in 2018 and she represents nearly one million residents in Senate District 22. She was previously a public

school teacher for 17 years in Baldwin Park and Monrovia school districts.

The presentation of awards continued with the next award given to the 2021–2022 ASU president of Rosa E. Mendoza. The award was for the ELAC 2022 President’s Student Leadership award.

For the final award of the evening, Civil Rights icon Dolores Huerta received the President’s Leadership Award.

“Community college wasn’t on my list when I applied to the four schools that rejected me. But ELAC was there and I’m beyond grateful to be here,” Mendoza said.

**Credits: East Los Angeles College Campus News, Published by Luis Diaz**

# Gala Sponsors

East Los Angeles College & the East Los Angeles College Foundation thank and acknowledge the following sponsors for their dedication and efforts to the success of tonight's 2022 Annual President's Gala.

## Building Our Future One Student at a Time



## Building Our Communities



## Building Hope



## Building Inspiration



## Building a Foundation



# Congratulations to our 2022 ELAC Foundation Unsung Heroes

In recognition of East Los Angeles College classified employees, faculty, adjunct faculty, and staff for their contributions to our students and the ELAC Family.



**Amanda  
Andrade**



**Dr. Kenneth V.  
Chaiprasert**



**Eddie  
Galeana**

**Cesar  
Enriquez**

**Allison  
Estrada**

**Troy  
Pierce**



**Grace  
Lee**



**Jovany  
Muñoz**



**Kamyar  
Khashayar**

**Leslie (Les)  
Howard**

**Kimberly  
Diana Romero**

**Jacqueline  
Zavala**

**Mei-Lee  
Wan**



**Lucy  
Nargizyan**



**Nubia  
Sell**



**Steve  
Wardinski**

**Paulette  
Jaurequi**

**Tony  
Lin**

**Vanessa  
Meraz**

**Yangok  
Chu**

# East Los Angeles College 75th Anniversary Community Celebration

The East Los Angeles College (ELAC) Foundation hosted ELAC's 75th Anniversary Community Celebration. Over 1,500 attendees enjoyed a day of celebration featuring 22 vendors, food, music, and a car show. The celebration ended with a performance featuring live music by "The Tierra Legacy," reunited after more than 30 Years and a historical journey of Tierra with original and former members of Tierra and the Salas Family and many other bands and music legends!

Honorees included CA State Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon and retired ELAC Vice President of Student Services Dr. Julie Benavides with the ELAC 75th Anniversary Legacy Awards. Renowned musical artist and songwriter Daphee Salsa and actor, writer, and comedian Rudy Moreno emceed the event.

The event's major sponsor was TELACU with Senior VP of TELACU Industries and ELAC Foundation Board member Ms. Priscilla Lizárraga, and Dr. David Lizárraga, Chairman and Founder of TELACU Education Foundation. Magna Cum Laude sponsors included Cordoba Corporation, The Friendship Academies, The Los Angeles College Faculty Guild. AFT 1521, Medi Waste Disposal, and Via Care and Cum Laude sponsors included Dr. Beatriz E. Ruiz Silva, Garvey Education Foundation, LCW- Liebert Cassidy Whitmore, Liberty Dental Plan, Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis, So Cal Gas Company, The Benavides Family, and the Southwest Regional Council of Carpenters.

"ELAC Foundation is ever so grateful to the generosity of our supporters. The support our sponsors have exhibited is a true



**"This celebration not only commemorated 75 years of the college's remarkable history but also served to inspire us as we look ahead to ELAC's bright future. I want to thank all involved in making this celebration concert a reality and all who attended the event.," said ELAC President Alberto J. Roman.**



testament to their commitment and belief in the mission of the Foundation and the College, “said ELAC Foundation Board of Directors President Ms. Castro-Salvati.

“My husband David and I, along with TELACU, were honored to serve as the Major Sponsor of this historic event,” said ELAC Foundation Board Member and Senior VP of TELACU Industries Ms. Priscilla Lizárraga. “It has been so amazing to see our college grow from humble beginnings of just four movable bungalows to a permanent and enduring treasure in our community. When my own mother graduated from ELAC’s Nursing School in the early 50’s, it changed the trajectory of our family forever, so it is especially heartwarming to support new generations of students in achieving their academic goals at ELAC and beyond!”

The 75th Anniversary attendees included ELAC Alumnus CA State Senator Susan Rubio, LACCD Board of Trustees Vice President Dr. Gabriel Buelna and Mike Fong, Monterey Park Mayor Pro Tem Henry Lo and City Clerk Vincent D. Chang, and representatives from the offices of CA State Senator Bob Archuleta and LA County Supervisor Hilda Solis.

TELACU Industries Ms. Priscilla Lizárraga. “It has been so amazing to see our college grow from humble beginnings of just four movable bungalows to a permanent and enduring treasure in our community. When my own mother graduated from ELAC’s Nursing School in the early 50’s, it changed the trajectory of our family forever, so it is especially heartwarming to support new generations of students in achieving their academic goals at ELAC and beyond!”

## ► ELAC Offers Historic Service-Based State Program

East Los Angeles College (ELAC) was selected as 1 of 45 colleges and universities in the state as an inaugural partner for the historic #CaliforniansForAll College Corps service-based college opportunity program. This program helps create debt-free college pathways for low-income students across California.

#CaliforniansForAll College Corps provides up to 6,500 college students over two academic years with service opportunities in critical issue areas such as climate action, K-12 education, and COVID-19 recovery. Students who complete a year of service receive \$10,000 while gaining valuable experience serving in their communities. This program unites young Californians of all backgrounds in service, and, for the first time, specifically creates state-funded opportunities for AB 540 eligible Dreamers to serve their communities.

Students who complete 450 hours of service with College Corps receive the following benefits:

- \$7,000 stipend (living allowance), plus a \$3,000 Education Award
- Academic credit (amount and type to be determined by each partner campus)
- A real-world job experience and skills to add to their resume
- Access to training, networking, and professional development opportunities

“We are honored to have been selected to be part of the inaugural cohort of colleges and universities to participate in the #CaliforniansForAll College Corps. This program will create more college and career pathways for our students

while also giving them real life working experience in their communities and affording them the opportunity to pay for college. I am proud that ELAC is a part of this program and I look forward to seeing it help our students achieve their goals,” said ELAC President Alberto J. Roman.

The #CaliforniansForAll College Corps Program has three core goals:

- Goal 1: Engage College students in meaningful service opportunities that build leadership skills and civic responsibility
- Goal 2: Help students from diverse backgrounds graduate college on time and with less debt.
- Goal 3: Support the work of community-based organizations focused on key local priorities.

ELAC is one of only four (4) community colleges in the Los Angeles area to be selected for this program. ELAC also joins the East Los Angeles and San Gabriel Valley Regional Consortium through #CaliforniansForAll College Corps in partnership with Cal State LA, Cal Poly Pomona, and Rio Hondo College. The full list of California partner colleges and universities can be found here: <https://www.californiavolunteers.ca.gov/californiansforall-college-corps/>

The first cohort of students started in August 2022 and finished the program in July 2023. Students who are interested can contact ELAC Student Services Dean, Danelle Fallert, at [fallerd@elac.edu](mailto:fallerd@elac.edu) for more information.

## ► **\$50,000 in Grocery & Food Gift Cards & over \$10,000 in Rent Assistance Donated by ELAC Foundation**

Monterey Park CA – East Los Angeles College Foundation (ELACF) recently donated \$50,000 worth of Ralphs/Food 4 Less and Taco Bell gift cards to students and their families facing food insecurity and over \$10,000 to students facing housing insecurity.

This donation comes from a generous grant from The Joseph Drown Foundation, the Foundation for Los Angeles Community Colleges, ELAC Foundation Transforming Lives Campaign (TLC) donors, and Taco Bell.

“We are so blessed to have acquired such a significant funding that we know

would be of tremendous help to these students and families. ELACF continues its diligence to seek funding opportunities to benefit our students,” said Marissa Castro-Salvati, ELACF Board President.

“The support of the ELAC Foundation has been fundamental in helping our college meet student basic needs such as food and home insecurity. We know this change is paramount to student success, and I am proud of their hard work in making sure our students basic needs are met. Thank you to all the donors and those who made this a reality,” said ELAC President Alberto J. Roman.

## ► **East Los Angeles College Invention & Inclusive Innovation (i3) Initiative Students Receive Completion Awards**

Twelve East Los Angeles College (ELAC) students receive completion awards from ELAC Foundation for the students completing the initiative. The Invention and Inclusive Innovation (i3) initiative at ELAC promotes global citizenship and community, social responsibility, lifelong learning, equity, and integrity. The i3 project fosters the entrepreneurial mindset in students, particularly women and students of color, expanding the entrepreneurial ecosystem that exists in the college and surrounding communities.

Through project-based learning, students in the i3 initiative develop skills to navigate the rapidly changing economic environment of the 21st century.

“Congratulations to our i3 students! The original research process you used to explore complex real-world problems will benefit you and our community in the future.”

Students plan to use completion awards to purchase technology tool to support their educational success.

# East Los Angeles Foundation Elects New Executive Board

East Los Angeles College (ELAC) Foundation proudly announces the election of its new Executive Board. The Board members bring a wealth of experience and expertise to guide the organization's strategic direction and drive its impact.

The newly elected Executive Board members are:



Marissa Castro Salvati,  
Board President-Local Public  
Affairs Region Manager  
for Southern CA Edison

**"I personally extend my gratitude to the outgoing Executive Board members for their dedicated service and invaluable contributions to the organization. Their leadership has been instrumental in shaping the success of ELAC Foundation"**



Reyna Valadez, Board 1st Vice  
President-CEO/President of  
Communities of San Gabriel  
Valley Project Access

**"It is with great honor to serve under Mrs. Marissa Castro Salvati, the executive board, its board members, and stakeholders who foster excellence and equitable, accessible, and inclusive environments for all. As a professor, board member and proud alumnus I wholeheartedly give thanks to serve"**





Christian Contreras  
Esq., Board 2nd Vice  
President- The Law Offices  
of Christian Contreras



Luis Plascencia,  
Board Treasurer-  
General Manager of  
Courtyard Marriott

***“As ELAC Foundation enters this new chapter, I am excited to work on expanding our reach, enhancing our programs and services, and amplifying our impact within the community. I will work closely with the dedicated staff and volunteers to further the mission of ELAC & ELAC Foundation and ensure its continued success”***

# East Los Angeles Alumni Association Elects New Executive Board



The East Los Angeles College (ELAC) Alumni Association is recognized as the single campus-wide Alumni Association under the auxiliary of the ELAC Foundation. It is made-up of volunteers who provide field leadership, organize events, raise funds, promote and advance the interest of its Alumni. The ELAC Alumni Association seeks to inspire, serve, and engage Alumni by providing environments and opportunities that philanthropically support the next generation of leaders.

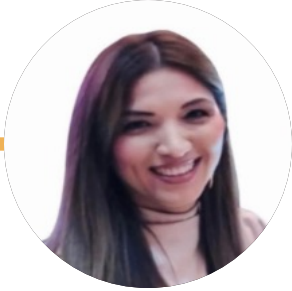
For more information or to get involved please visit [www.elacfoundation.com/alumni/](http://www.elacfoundation.com/alumni/) The Association is pleased to announce the election of its new Executive Board.

The newly elected Executive Board members are:



Reyna Valadez, President  
- CEO/President of  
Communities of San  
Gabriel Valley Project  
Access/ Adjunct Professor  
of Child, Family &  
Education Studies at East  
Los Angeles College

**“I am humbled, honored, and privileged to assume the role of the President of the East Los Angeles College Alumni Association 2023 - 2025. I am deeply grateful to my predecessor, MariaElena Yepes, and the Executive Committee and Board members for their leadership and outstanding contributions to our students and campus community. Indeed, the growth of the ELAC Alumni Association has been propelled collectively by all the past members of the East Los Angeles College Alumni Association and its stakeholders. I am excited to welcome the new Executive Board and new and returning members, and I look forward to continuing this important work and fulfilling our campus mission”**



Ana Victoria Osio, VP – Professor  
at East Los Angeles College



Emiliano Saucedo, VP –  
Financial Advisor of A.R.  
Huguez & Associates

**“The new Executive Board is dedicated to fostering a lifelong connection between alumni and the college, supporting the personal and professional development of alumni, and contributing to the growth and success of ELAC”**



Oscar M. Lobatto,  
Treasurer – Sales/  
Marketing of AOA  
Business Systems



Marilyn Ladd, Secretary  
– Adjunct Professor  
of Kinesiology at East  
Los Angeles College

# SCHOLARSHIPS/ ENDOWMENT

## Over 3 Million Dollars in Scholarships Awarded to ELAC Scholars

East Los Angeles College Foundation proudly announces a groundbreaking milestone with its record-breaking scholarship event, showcasing an extraordinary commitment to education and empowering the next generation of leaders. The event, held on May 23, 2023, shattered all previous records, underscoring the organization's dedication to providing transformative educational opportunities. East Los Angeles College (ELAC) awarded 242 scholars \$199,867 in scholarships during its spring 2023

quarter, with one new endowment marking this the most amount of scholarships awarded in the history of ELAC.

This record-breaking achievement not only speaks volumes about the generosity of our community but also reflects our collective belief in the power of education to transform lives. Through these scholarships, we are empowering deserving students to unlock their full potential and make a lasting impact in their communities and beyond."



"I am very proud of all the students who were awarded scholarships and excited to see new scholarship opportunities for all students. Our students put in countless hours to achieve their educational goals. It is inspiring to see their work be rewarded by eliminating financial barriers which is key to their success," said ELAC President Alberto J. Roman.

The Ceremony marked the largest in both dollar amounts and number of recipients in the history of ELAC. The Scholarships included newly established scholarships and endowments such as the Jose Blas Sanchez Gonzalez Scholarship Memorial Fund, Richard and Cynthia Leza Hispanic Scholarship, and Gilbert "Gil" Gerakos "Mayor of East LA" Legacy Memorial Scholarship.

The Seven New Scholarships were AAUW Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch, Bryan C. Ventura Student Equity Scholarship, Dr. Julie Benavides Student Success Scholarship, Mercy Udeochu Memorial Scholarship for Child

Development and Education, Rudy & Steve Salas Scholarship for Music, The Ron Lau and Guadalupe Corona Scholarship, and the Vince Carlo Moretti GRIT Scholarship.

"The ELAC Foundation Board is proud of all our scholars who were awarded a scholarship in 2022-23. In addition, we are honored and humbled by all the newly established endowments and scholarships at

East Los Angeles College, as this is a testament that shows how people believe in the future of our ELAC students," said Marissa B. Castro-Salvati, President of the ELAC Foundation.

Overall, East Los Angeles College received more than \$3 million in scholarships from donors that were profoundly moved by their ability to continue supporting these deserving students in their efforts in transforming lives. This tremendous assistance has allowed students to achieve success in their educational goals and continue their education at ELAC.

The ELAC Foundation Board would like to thank all the ELAC Scholarship Committee members for their time, effort, and dedication to the scholarship selection process. Their selfless commitment to this task exemplifies the values of our institution and embodies the spirit of generosity and opportunity that lies at the heart of our scholarship program.



### **East Los Angeles College Receives \$25,000 In Scholarships From Edison International**

**East Los Angeles College (ELAC) Foundation is proud to announce that ELAC has been awarded \$25,000 to provide financial assistance to students pursuing science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) majors. Since 2014 Edison International has continuously supported ELAC students pursuing STEM majors with scholarships while sponsoring ELAC's Annual Scholarship Award Ceremony. This Spring, Edison International, once again, will provide 25 \$1000 scholarships to ELAC students.**

# East Los Angeles College Adjunct Professor, Foundation, and Alumni Association Board Member Established a New Scholarship Endowment

East Los Angeles College (ELAC) adjunct professor and Foundation and Alumni Association Board Member Reyna Valadez establishes “The Reyna Valadez endowment offering five \$1,000 scholarships to ELAC students for Spring semesters.

The scholarship tackles the broad opportunities and challenges facing our communities, like urbanization, inequalities, intergenerational disadvantages, demographic shifts, environmental changes, and economically distressed neighborhoods, to help eliminate barriers and create opportunities for change. The Scholarship focuses on students currently enrolled in a student success or service equity program at ELAC to support their upward trajectory and lifelong learning. The student Support Services at ELAC can include but not limited to One Zone, AB 540 / Dream Resource Center, Education Justice Rising Scholars, LGBTQ Center, Umoja, NextUP, Veterans Resource Center, (Diversabilities Support Program & Services (DSP&S), Extended Opportunity Programs & Services (EOPS), International Students, Latina Completion & Transfer, CalWorks, etc.)

Ms. Valadez is the Founder of Communities of San Gabriel Valley Project Access and an adjunct professor at ELAC. She also holds a board seat as a proud Husky with the ELAC Foundation and Alumni Association. With over 20 years of public policy,

non-profit leadership, and community development. Throughout her career, she has mobilized state-wide and district-wide efforts that support equity initiatives like food insecurity, LGBTQ+ initiatives, health & nutrition education, HIV/AIDS prevention, the importance of family in college success, potential pathways to citizenship, homelessness, foster care, workforce management and development, mental health education, and prevention.

“My life wasn’t very different from those I serve, and it was only when I stopped accepting others’ definition of me that I began to take control of my own narrative. The best advice I can give is from a quote by Harvey Fierstein, ‘Accept no one’s definition of your life; define yourself.’ It is my hope that the We Champion ELAC Scholars scholarship will inspire you to be the best version of yourself as you continue your upward trajectory and lifelong learning,” said Ms. Reyna Valadez.

To learn more about the scholarship, please visit <https://elacfoundation.com/the-reyna-valadez-we-champion-elac-scholars-scholarship>



## Bryan C. Ventura Student Equity Scholarship

Bryan C. Ventura began his career at East Los Angeles College (ELAC) in 2013, one of the nine colleges in the Los Angeles Community College District. Mr. Ventura has held every position in Institutional Research from Assistant Research Analyst, Research Analyst, Associate Dean, and Dean. As the Dean of the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Advancement at ELAC, Mr. Ventura oversaw institutional research, planning, professional development, distance education, a Title V grant, and learning assessment. Mr. Ventura also teaches as an adjunct faculty for the Child, Family, and Education Studies department at ELAC.

At ELAC, Mr. Ventura has led the implementation of college activities with a student-centered approach and equity lens. He has worked tirelessly as a voting member on nearly every shared governance committee and on several initiative work groups. Mr. Ventura's impact expands beyond ELAC. He joined the RP Group Board in July 2020 and represents the Los Angeles County region. As an RP Board member, Mr. Ventura has engaged and led equity-minded and anti-racist efforts to transform the Institutional Research field across California Community Colleges. Mr. Ventura believes that research can help institutions become more equitable and just, and strives to produce high quality, reliable, and practical research to advance student equity and success.

Mr. Ventura has studied education for over 10 years and has served in various education-related roles, including education advocate, education program evaluator, teaching assistant, alternative school program coordinator, and after school tutor. Mr. Ventura considers himself a data-geek and enjoys analyzing both qualitative (non-numbers) and quantitative (numerical) data related to education. He earned a BA in Social Sciences at the University of California, Irvine, and his MA in Education with an emphasis on Race and Ethnic Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles. Mr. Ventura began a PhD program in Urban Education at the University of California, Los Angeles and hopes to complete the program in the near future.

In addition to his exceptional track record, Mr. Ventura has served as role model, leader, and mentor for his colleagues, staff, and students. What makes Mr. Ventura special is his commitment to making this world a better place and giving opportunities to those who have been minoritized and marginalized. Mr. Ventura has a huge heart, sees the best in everyone, and never fails to make someone laugh.



# Dr. Julie Benavides Student Success Scholarship

Julie began teaching at East Los Angeles College (ELAC) in the Child, Family & Education Studies department in 1996. As faculty, she developed countless programs on campus to support first-generation college students, students from low-income backgrounds, and individuals from other marginalized groups, including undocumented students, foster youth, and homeless populations. At ELAC, she became a Department Chair for 6 years and served as the Dean of Student Services. In November 2015, Julie became the first female Vice President and the Chief Student Services Officer for the college until retiring in 2021. Along with serving in a leadership capacity, Julie still teaches as an adjunct professor.

As an educator, she has mentored thousands of students. Students know her as someone who is resourceful, encouraging, and a dynamo in class. Julie empowers students through knowledge interchange and building upon their strengths. Julie organized cohorts to assist students with transferring from the two-year college to obtain not only their bachelors degree but develop a pathway for students to obtain their masters. She continually goes beyond her official capacities to ensure that students are cared for. Julie has dedicated her career to the advancement of some of the most vulnerable students. She is known for taking food and clothing to students facing food insecurity. As a first-generation student, Julie understood the road to education requirements collaborative efforts and building momentum for

students to activate their college cultural capital. She believes that if students are supported with proper systems and practices that support their navigational, social, and familial capital they will be better equipped to fulfill their aspirations.

As an administrator, she is a visionary leader who has significantly contributed to the betterment of the college and the community. Julie leads by example with a visible track record for success, student equity, and the common good. She initiated the dual enrollment program and early college academics with three local school districts and charter schools. She implemented the Greater Outcomes (GO) East LA to promote a college going culture in the community and to tackle graduation barriers. She created the ELAC Live! Program.

Julie has been a catalyst for change. She has led the charge with support from her team to redesign and strengthen student services by setting a vision for holistic student support framework using the student journey and college completion agenda. The ambitious framework envisioned includes:

- Initiating the Culturally Representative Training and Safe Zone program
- Building the capacity of the counseling department by doubling the size of the counseling staff expanding the Transfer and Veterans' Center.
- Supporting the peer mentoring and peer navigation programming.



- Initiating the creation of support centers for undocumented students (Dream Resource Center), formerly incarcerated students (Educational Justice/Rising Scholars), student athletes (Husky Athletes Support Center), LGBTQ+ students, and Black/African American students
- Ensuring students are greeted and on-boarded with the Welcome Center
- Supporting financial literacy
- Increasing mental health and wellness with additional therapists and social workers in its Health Services Center



Julie's vision includes the advancement of the whole family. She created the Family And Community Engagement Services (FACES) so that families can understand and support the college journey of their student as well as to be included in the college for all programming.

Julie Benavides is a trailblazer as an educator, leader, and advocate. She's earned the admiration of faculty, staff, students, and colleagues by paving the way for others. Her energy and enthusiasm are contagious, and her passion for creating educational change serves as an inspiration within the college and community.

# Philanthropist, Civil Leader and East Los Angeles College Alumnus Dr. Richard Zapanta Legacy Remembered

East Los Angeles community pays tribute to the philanthropist, civic leader, and East Los Angeles College (ELAC) Alumnus Dr. Richard Zapanta by establishing the East Los Angeles College (ELAC) Dr. Richard Zapanta Legacy Fund Scholarship.

A fourth-generation Mexican-American, Dr. Zapanta was born and raised in East Los Angeles. He graduated from Garfield High School, East Los Angeles College, living across the street from the college for several years, and received his bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Southern California in 1968. In 1973, he received his medical degree from the Keck School of Medicine of USC. He completed a one-year straight surgical internship, one-year neurology residency, and a four-year orthopedic residency at the LAC+USC Medical Center. Dr. Zapanta had been in private practice since 1979 and was the senior partner of Eastside Orthopedic Medical Associates, through which he served the community where he was raised.

Dr. Zapanta built a respected legacy of philanthropy and civic leadership. He served as Treasurer of the LAC+USC Medical Center Foundation, Inc., committing much of his time and passion to the conceptualization and implementation of the Foundation's flagship program, The Wellness Center at the Historic General Hospital. Over the years, his philanthropic leadership inspired him to serve as a director and trustee on numerous boards, including

Children's Hospital in Los Angeles, Whittier College, AltaMed Health Services Foundation, the Vincent Price Art Museum Foundation, and the LA Health Foundation. Furthermore, Dr. Zapanta contributed his time and talent in support of the East Los Angeles College Foundation among other associations and fellowships.

Thirty-eight years ago, Dr. Zapanta was a founding member of the USC Mexican American Alumni Scholarship Fund that has given 7,500 scholarships and raised upwards of 14 million dollars. Dr. Zapanta served on the Advisory Board of the local chapter and national organization of the Latino Medical Student Association at the Keck School of Medicine of USC. He also chaired the Dr. John R. Hubbard Recognition Award Committee, which annually awards an exceptional undergraduate Latino student.

Dr. Zapanta took pride in hosting a yearly scholarship to a deserving Garfield High School graduate and annually sponsored a high school student for the Keck School of Medicine of USC Med-COR Summer Work Program. He frequently mentored high school, college, and medical students and served on the Keck School of Medicine of USC Admissions Committee for many years. The passion he and his wife Rebecca had for Mexican art has resulted in a significant collection of 20th-century Mexican art, amassed over 30 years, including examples of nearly all of the relevant styles and primary figures. The collection has been exhibited in numerous

museums throughout the United States and was recently shown in international venues in Hong Kong and the Philippines and was featured as part of the Getty Museum's Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA exhibition. A defining characteristic of their collection is the personal friendships that the Zapantas established with the artists, resulting in public commissions for Mexican artists across the United States.

"ELAC gave my Dad, a young Latino from East LA, the opportunity and Foundation to change the course of his and his family's life. My Dad always humbly recognized ELAC's instrumental role in his successful orthopedic surgery career. My grandmother Adeline Zapanta attended ELAC after both of her sons became surgeons with similar dreams. She ultimately became a nurse in her 50's. We hope this scholarship is utilized in the spirit of the Zapanta Family Legacy and as a vehicle to help others achieve their success." Gina Zapanta.

"Dr Zapanta is a True Champion for the Eastside, through his advocacy, philanthropic generosity and example of success. Our students see themselves in him.

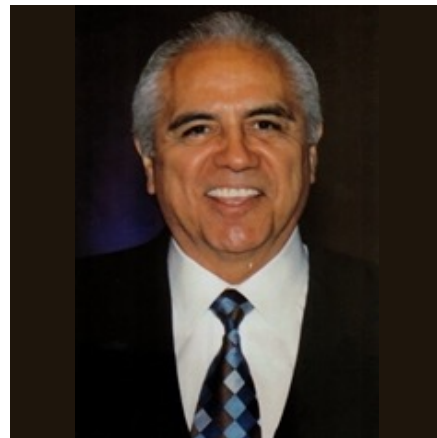
My Board colleagues and I are thrilled to establish the Dr. Richard Zapanta Legacy Scholarship as he embodies our mission to Transform Lives of the students we serve. A sincere Thank You to Gina and Zapanta family for continued commitment to the ELAC community," said ELAC Foundation Treasurer/ Board Member, Cassandra Sanchez.

"We are honored to recognize and pay tribute to Dr. Zapanta's legacy through the scholarship fund. Dr. Zapanta epitomizes what it means to pay it forward. He was

a compassionate philanthropic and civic leader who never forgot his roots and understood the importance of helping his community through educational access. Dr. Zapanta was a champion of student equity and increasing student success and his legacy will live on through this scholarship fund that will directly help the next generation of community leaders," said ELAC President, Alberto J. Roman

Dr. Zapanta is survived by his wife Rebecca, five children, Gina, Valerie, Joseph, Gregory, and Richard Jr., and his three grandchildren, Sofia, Valentina, and Arthur

To learn more about the Scholarship, please visit <https://elacfoundation.com/dr-richard-zapanta-legacy-fund-scholarship/>



# Civic Leader Gilbert “Gil” Gerakos Legacy Remembered

East Los Angeles community pays tribute to the respected civic leader, community activist, role model, and friend Gilbert “Gil” Gerakos by establishing the East Los Angeles College (ELAC) Gilbert “Gil” Gerakos “Mayor of East LA” Legacy Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Known by many as the “Mayor of East LA”, Gilbert “Gil” Gerakos lived a life of community service and volunteerism. For thirty years, Gil worked in the community as a representative for the United Way as a corporate liaison and for local elected officials at both the City and County level. He generously assisted organizations with their fundraising and scholarship campaigns. Gil passed away in on April 25, 2021, at the age of 82.

Fellow ELAC alumni George L. Pla and Jim Moreno have established the Gilbert “Gil” Gerakos “Mayor of East LA” Legacy Memorial Scholarship Fund in coordination with Gil’s widow Lee Gerakos, in memory of their friend, including providing initial funding for the scholarship.

Gil was a fine man and helpful to so many people in the community. He truly earned his honorary title as ‘Mayor of East LA,’” stated Jim Moreno. “Because of his dedication to public service, we wanted to honor Gil’s legacy by creating a scholarship program dedicated To students who are focused on helping others.”

The Gilbert “Gil” Gerakos “Mayor of East LA” Legacy Memorial Scholarship Fund will provide scholarships to students

who have demonstrated a significant pattern of volunteer service to ELAC and its surrounding communities. Potential applicants should be actively involved and engaged as volunteer leaders in initiatives and programs that positively impact both ELAC and the communities it serves. Examples include college student clubs, community initiatives, and programs, the ELAC Alumni Association, etc. “Gil’s spirit of community involvement and public service will live on through this scholarship program,” stated George L. Pla, Founder & CEO of Cordoba Corporation. “We are pleased to honor his legacy by creating this scholarship that will support students who are making a difference in the local community.”

He dedicated his life to community service and was a lifetime ELAC Husky. The establishment of a legacy memorial scholarship in his honor will ensure that the ‘Mayor of East LA’ continues to help ELAC students achieve their academic goals,” said East Los Angeles College President Dr. Albert J. Román. A Husky for Life, Gil received his Associate of Arts from ELAC in 1961 and his undergraduate degree in Liberal Arts Studies from Cal-State Dominguez Hills in 1966. His community service and activities included: Board of Directors of East Los Angeles Boys and Girls Club, Founder of East Los Angeles Big Brothers, Founder of California Highway Patrol, East Los Angeles Advisory Council, Member of Knights of Columbus, Founding Member of U. S. C. Mexican American Alumni Association, Director and Member of East Los Angeles

Jaycees and the San Gabriel Mission High School Development Board.

Gil's commitment to public service was inspired by his work for highly respected local elected officials who provided effective and responsive constituent service. During his career, Gil worked with several community groups and advisory boards. His impressive resume includes the following positions: Chief of Staff to Los Angeles City Councilman Richard Alatorre (1995-1997); Assistant Chief Deputy to Los Angeles County Supervisor Ed Edelman (1978- 1994); Development Associate for United Way (1973-1978); and Director of the City of Los Angeles Latin American Affairs Department (1965-1973).

To learn more about the Scholarship, please visit [https:// elacfoundation.com/gilbert- gil-gerakos-mayor-of-east-la- legacy-memorial-scholarship-2/](https://elacfoundation.com/gilbert-gil-gerakos-mayor-of-east-la-legacy-memorial-scholarship-2/)



# Rudy & Steve Salas Scholarship for Music

The East Los Angeles College Foundation in coordination with the Salas family (David Salas, Rita Daruvala, Steve Salas, Robert Salas, Richard Salas and Martha Salas) have come together to establish the Rudy Salas scholarship fund. This scholarship is intended for students who are focused on music and its importance to the community.

Rudy Salas co-founded the super group Tierra with his brother Steve in 1972. Rudy, Steve and bandmates Joey Guerra, Andre Baeza, Phil Madayag, Steve Falomir, Bobby Navarrete, Bobby Loya and Mike Jimenez pioneered a sound that blended R&B, Latin, Rock and Jazz into unique, smooth, and soulful albums that propelled them to the top of the Billboard charts in 1980's with the hit songs "Together", "Gonna Find Her", "Memories", "La La Means I Love You" and Hidden Tears".

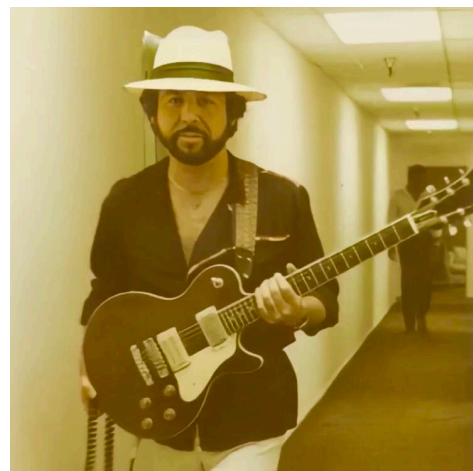
Tierra has the distinction of being the first Latin / American band to have impacted four national charts with two songs simultaneously charting in the Billboard Top 100. They have performed in prestigious venues and shows such as Carnegie Hall, The American Music Awards, American Bandstand, The Dorothy Chandler Pavilion and have toured internationally as well.

Rudy Salas was born on January 5, 1949, in Lincoln Heights to Mexican American parents Rudy Sr. and Margaret Salas. Although Rudy and Steve were not fluent in Spanish

as children, they eventually picked up on Mexican folk ballads from their mother, and

Rudy learned his first guitar chords from his uncle Art Brambila. The Salas brothers eventually began to hone their craft by performing at fiestas, local parties and church events in and around Lincoln Heights and East Los Angeles.

The early music of Tierra was highly influenced by the growing Civil Rights and Chicano Rights movements. Their debut album in 1973 reflected the sounds of a community amidst a wave of political and social consciousness. The brothers' commitment to causes within the community led to Tierra performances in hundreds of charitable events through the past five decades. At the twilight of his career, Rudy dedicated his life to producing and cultivating younger artists at Studio 2425 in Monterey Park which he shared with his son David Salas for almost 20 years. The Salas family intends to carry Rudy's work by cultivating new artists and serving the community through music. Rudy Salas passed away at age 71 due to Covid. The Salas family is honored to keep his legacy alive with the help of East Los Angeles College by giving this scholarship.



## Mercy Udeochu Memorial Scholarship for Child Development and Education

Mercy was a lifelong teacher and administrator with LAUSD, Trade Tech, and East Los Angeles College. She inspired her students with her personal stories of struggle and triumph from day one. She was a wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and warm community member to her Nigerian brothers and sisters. She is survived by her four daughters, one son, and her husband.

Mercy will be greatly missed, and through this scholarship program, her legacy will continue to move forward with the next generation of students entering the early childhood education field.



# The American Association of University Women Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch Establishes a Scholarship at East Los Angeles College

Empowering Women Since 1881

East Los Angeles College Foundation is proud to announce the establishment of The American Association of University Women (AAUW) Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch Scholarship.

Established in 1881, AAUW donates \$3.7 million annually in fellowships, grants, and awards that encourage educational and professional development and resources for members facing employment challenges. Furthermore, the organization provides networking and mentoring opportunities for professional and personal growth, in-person and online; relevant and timely information on issues impacting women and girls through our research, magazine, and action briefings, all available with exclusive member benefits and discounts; and the chance to build lifelong relationships with like-minded women.

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discounts; and the chance to build lifelong relationships with like-minded women.

“As our nation and college just celebrated the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, guaranteeing and protecting women’s constitutional right to vote, this Scholarship is befitting the continuation of our work to empower women. We are honored and humbled by the AAUW Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch for establishing this Scholarship at East Los Angeles College,” said Marissa B. Castro-Salvati, President of the ELAC Foundation.

“I am grateful to the American Association of University Women and the ELAC Foundation for making this scholarship a reality. This will help to empower current and future women scholars at ELAC to achieve their academic goals.”

To learn more about the Scholarship and to donate, please visit [www.elacfoundation.com/](http://www.elacfoundation.com/)







## **ELAC Architecture Student Awarded \$100,000 in Total Scholarships**

The ELAC Architecture department recently awarded \$100,000 in scholarships to 30 of their students. These scholarships were awarded at the annual Architecture Scholarship Awards Luncheon event hosted by the department at the ELAC campus and was attended by approximately 100 people.

The scholarships were provided from alumni, architecture firms, professors, and friends of the department. Two of the scholarships were for the LA County Supervisor District 1 Bus Shelter Design Competition with \$8,000 scholarships to 4 students. Two scholarships from EYRC

Architects were awarded to two students from Professor Hamner's Arc 202 studio that included Michael Maltzan, architect of the new 6th Street Viaduct across the L.A. River as a design critic for a hypothetical museum adjacent to the Viaduct.

ELAC is the only college in the Los Angeles Community College District with their own Architecture department and they were one of the original departments when ELAC opened their doors in 1945. Many of their students transfer to universities such as USC, UCLA, SCI-Arc, Berkeley, Cal Poly Pomona and Woodbury University and many more.

# Richard and Cynthia Leza Hispanic Scholarship

ELAC students currently pursuing pathway programs and certifications at ELAC Computer Technology, Engineering Technology, Electronics & Electric Technology, and Drafting Technology with the intent to transferring to a 4-year university and intent to enroll in Computer or Engineering fields. The Student must demonstrate a need for financial assistance, be a Hispanic from California, and have a G.P.A. equal to or greater than 3.0. The Student must be enrolled full-time (12 or more units) at ELAC during the terms in which the award remains active. In addition, preference shall be given to a married student.

Scholarship Criteria:

- Computer Technology, Engineering Technology, Electronics & Electric Technology, and Drafting Technology.
- Student must be enrolled full-time (12 or more units) at ELAC during the terms in which the award remains active
- Must demonstrate a need for financial assistance.
- Intent to transfer to a 4-year university and enroll in Computer or Engineering fields.
- Must have completed at least 12 units or more at ELAC with a cumulative G.P.A. of 3.0 or higher.
- Prefer a married student



## Vince Moretti Grit Carlo Scholarship

Vince Moretti (1936–2017) was born and raised in Los Angeles. In his youth, Vince loved playing sports and was a good athlete. He was somewhat small for his age, but wiry and competitive. He also had a mischievous streak. He participated in BB-gun fights with his older brother and once shot his tooth out! He hung out at the park with some of his tougher friends and got into a fight or two.

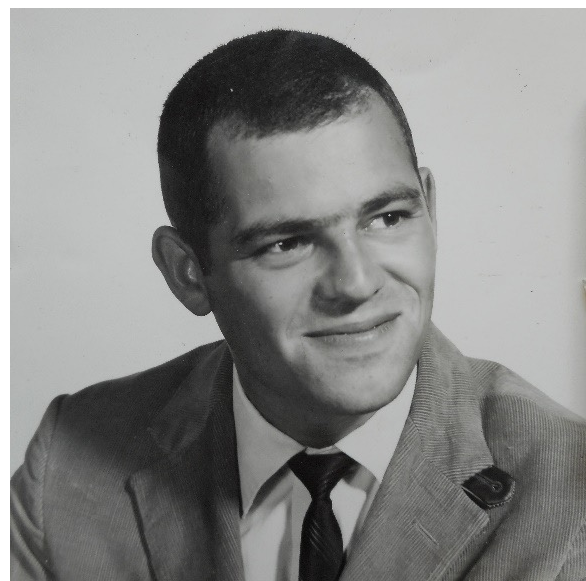
In school, Vince was bright but not motivated. Entering his senior year at Washington High, college was not on his radar. He liked mathematics and even earned the nickname “Algie” because he loved solving Algebra problems, but it wasn’t until his stepfather had a heart-to-heart talk with him that he got serious about his education. He signed up for all the hardest math and science classes his senior year and then, purely on his own, requested and was granted a second senior year in high school to gain his college credits. This was unheard of back then.

Vince Sr. worked several jobs while attending Pepperdine University then USC, where he graduated with a Civil Engineering degree in 1962 as a member of the Skull and Dagger Society, an exclusive honor society for a select few campus leaders. Vince started his career in aerospace at the height of the space race, making contributions to rocket technology and then to the ICBM program

during the cold war. Later he transitioned to more traditional Civil Engineering pursuits, working in private construction, government (City of Torrance), and he founded his own Engineering business, The Vincent C. Moretti Company.

Vince retired in 1992, but he wasn’t finished. There was one more chapter to his story. He became a Professor and ultimately Department Head at East Los Angeles College. There he taught and inspired young people, many of whom were second generation immigrants like himself. Vince’s optimistic message to his students – that education and hard work will be rewarded – came from his own experience living the American dream.

What we will always remember about Vince is his can-do spirit and child-like playfulness. Those who knew him can attest, being in his company made you feel forever young.



## ► Over 500 Laptops & Electronic Donated to ELAC Students

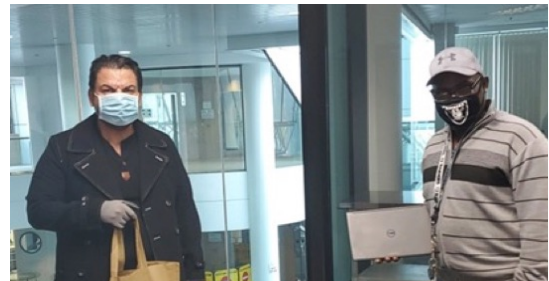
Over the past year, the East Los Angeles College (ELAC) Foundation has donated over 500 laptops & electronic devices and over 50 free Verizon Jetpacks with six months of Service to create hotspots for students who do not have access to the internet. Most of this has been possible through donations to the ELAC Foundation “Transforming Lives Campaign.” This includes ELAC Foundation partnership with California Prison Industries Association (CalPIA) in-kind donations of refurbished laptops through their digital job training programs and other supporters like Verizon, Southern CA Edison, and the Southern CA Gas Company.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, most classes were converted to an online format. Unfortunately, many students lacked a computer or internet access and

appeared to be in danger of not being able to complete their courses. Thanks to the immediate assistance through ELAC Foundation’s Emergency Assistance Program (EAP), many students received much-needed laptops and internet services, allowing them to continue their online education during the COVID-19 crisis. None of this could have happened without the Foundation’s partnerships with ELAC’s addiction studies and Education Justice Rising Scholars programs and support from faculty and staff.

Some of the affected students were in an offsite class located downtown at the Anti Recidivism Coalition (ARC). Mr. Harvey Knight, Senior Life Coach at ARC, said, “Thanks ELAC for coming through for our students at this crucial time.”

**Dr. Armond Aghakhanian (left), Development Director for the ELAC Foundation presents a refurbished laptop to Anthony Jordan (right), student in ELAC’s Addiction Studies program who is earning his prevention specialist certificate at the Anti- Recidivism Coalition (ARC) in downtown Los Angeles. Anthony can now continue his education online with his classmates. ▼**



## ► **\$13,116 Donated By East Los Angeles College Foundation to ELAC Allied Health Medical Assistant and Respiratory Therapy Program Students**

East Los Angeles College (ELAC) Foundation donated \$13,116 for expenses related to clinical requirements for ELAC Allied Health Medical Assistant and Respiratory Therapy Program Students.

The donation helped forty-two ELAC students enter a clinical setting at our affiliated partner sites, including hospitals and community clinics. Unfortunately, many of the students were uninsured or under-insured. As

a result, they could not afford the cost of vaccinations and physical exams, including physical examination, TB test, titers, flu, Hep B vaccine, varicella vaccine, and MMR vaccine.

“The ELAC Foundation Board is proud to sponsor these forty-two well-deserving students as they persuade their careers in the field of health care. Unfortunately, there is a shortage of medical assistance and respiratory therapist due to Covid-19 Pandemic. We hope our support can help close the gap, even if it is a small percentage,” said Marissa Castro-Salvati, President of East Los Angeles College Foundation.

“Our ELAC Students and community are grateful to the ELAC Foundation for their generous donation. This donation will help our Allied Health and Respiratory Therapy students complete their vital clinical requirements and continue their career path,” said ELAC President Alberto J. Román.

“The ELAC Foundation Board is proud to sponsor these forty-two well deserving students as they persuade their careers in the field of health care. Unfortunately, there is a shortage of medical assistance and respiratory therapist due to Covid-19 Pandemic. We hope our support can help close the gap, even if it is a small percentage,” said Marissa Castro-Salvati, President of East Los Angeles College Foundation.

**“Our ELAC Students and community are grateful to the ELAC Foundation for their generous donation. This donation will help our Allied Health and Respiratory Therapy students complete their vital clinical requirements and continue their career path,” said ELAC President Alberto J. Román.**

# East Los Angeles College Offers California's First Community College Central American Studies Program

East Los Angeles College (ELAC), the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD), and Assembly-member Wendy Carrillo (D-51) joined together on Friday, August 19, 2022, to announce the new Central American Studies program. This launch of the program is historic as it will be the first Central American Studies program offered at a California community college.

The program is currently housed in the ELAC Chicano/a Studies department and students who complete the requirements can earn an associates degree of arts. The program is currently expected to be available to students in the upcoming spring semester, but the courses are open now for any who are interested.

“Central Americans are the fastest growing demographic across the country according to a 2021 study by the Pew Hispanic Center. In California alone, Salvadorans make up the largest population outside of the country of El Salvador followed closely by people from Guatemala and Honduras. Given the history of civil strife in Central America, many 1.5 and second-generation Central Americans who immigrated or were brought to the U.S. as children, don't know the history of their countries of origin, nor the contributions of the Central American diaspora to the United

States,” said Assemblywoman Wendy Carrillo (D-Los Angeles). “As the only Salvadoran immigrant elected to the California legislature and co-author of AB101, which ensures Ethnic Studies are a high school graduation requirement, I applaud East Los Angeles College for their commitment to the Central American community and advancing much-needed academic discourse.”

“The Chicano/a Studies department has always been a vital part of ELAC, and this new program will continue to provide quality diverse educational options to our students. I applaud the departments leadership in making this program a reality. East Los Angeles College serves diverse communities within our service area and this program will create learning opportunities for students to embrace and celebrate diversity through an equity-minded and rigorous academic program that will be the first of its kind for a community college in the nation,” said ELAC President Alberto J. Roman.

“I offer my congratulations to the faculty and staff of East Los Angeles College for their bold leadership in establishing the first Community College Central American Studies Program in the state. This will be an incredible learning opportunity for all LACCD students,” said LACCD Board President, Gabriel Buelna,

Ph.D. “This new curriculum prepares our students to become well-informed, 21st-century citizens and professionals in an increasingly culturally and linguistically diverse world and job marketplace.

“At LACCD, we have advocated aggressively in support of ethnic studies because it provides a critical view and better understanding of our society’s intersection of race, ethnicity, and class, which ultimately helps our students build a more informed, racially-just and inclusive future,” said Chancellor

Francisco C. Rodriguez, Ph.D. “The Central American Studies Program at East Los Angeles College further diversifies and amplifies our curriculum and makes today’s urgent call for racial equity and social justice a reality.”

ELAC is the largest of nine two-year community colleges within the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD), [www.laccd.edu](http://www.laccd.edu).

More information about ELAC is available online at <http://www.elac.edu/>.



# GRANTS AWARDED

## ELAC Automobile Technology Department Awarded \$5,000 Grant

East Los Angeles College's (ELAC) Automobile Technology Department was recently awarded a \$5,000 grant from the Greater Los Angeles New Car Dealership Association (GLANCD). The money from this grant will be used to upgrade alignment equipment so ELAC Automobile Technology students can continue to use the latest technology.

The ELAC Automobile Technology facilities are second to none. Students use state-of-the-art tools and equipment. Hands-on laboratories combined with lectures that describe all the mechanical systems of modern cars and the latest computer assisted repair and testing equipment prepare students to transition easily into automotive dealerships or independent repair shops.

Students may enter the program with no prior experience and build their skills, so they are able to diagnose and repair today's sophisticated automobiles. Faculty members are (Automotive Service Excellence) ASE Master Technicians with many years of experience in the auto industry.

"GLANCD is so proud of the long-term relationship we have had with ELAC. They are doing a great job educating young auto technicians and there is a great demand for them in the world. This kind of partnership is what will give future technicians not only a job but a career in the automobile business," said Bob Smith, Executive Director for GLANCD.

ELAC Automobile Technology Department is a non-credit department where students learn all aspects of automotive repair in a comprehensive program that prepares them for ASE (Automotive Service Excellence) Certification and smog check licensing. The Automobile Technology program is NATEF Certified in all eight areas of auto repair and is housed in a state-of-the-art facility with a full range of sophisticated auto diagnostic equipment, computers, engine components, smart classrooms, information library, and other specialized repair equipment.

To learn more about the program visit their website at:

<https://www.elac.edu/Academics/Departments/Automotive-Technology>.



## ELAC Allied Health Department Awarded \$70,000 CDC Project Firstline Grant

East Los Angeles College (ELAC) Allied Health Department was awarded a \$70,000 Center of Disease Control Grant titled Project Firstline. ELAC was one of only 16 community colleges to receive this grant across the United States. The League for Innovation in the Community College, in partnership with the American Hospital Association (AHA) via Health Research & Educational Trust (HRET) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, invited selected U.S. community and technical colleges to apply to participate in a Project Firstline initiative focused on aligning infection control practice across education, experiential learning, and workplace settings in health care and allied fields. The selection of ELAC's Allied Health Faculty was because of the multifaceted professional qualifications of faculty and strongly allied health program curricula. Each faculty member has over 25 years of healthcare experience within different types of healthcare organizations and Allied Health professional education. Two of the Physician Assistant faculty members have had extensive experience working with Infectious diseases either in patient care or the clinical laboratory setting. The work of the project conducted by ELAC faculty included the following:

- Collaborate with team members, cohort members, curriculum coaches, and League, American Hospital Association (AHA), and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) staff and consultants to review, enhance, and implement infection control and prevention (IPC) components of the existing program curriculum.
- Share enhancements (e.g., learning outcomes, materials, assessments,

activities) with League, CDC, and AHA staff and consultants for use in creating a free online IPC professional development/training module and other resources for students, faculty, and practitioners.

- Participate in project evaluations, the college will provide relevant deidentified data related to IPC student learning outcomes achievement in courses where enhanced IPC curriculum is implemented in the fall 2021 term.
- Participate in planned events such as community of practice sessions, cohort sessions, master classes, and workshops, and in other program activities and follow-up as announced.

This grant will help current and future ELAC Allied Health students by increasing knowledge of best evidence-based infectious control practices with an emphasis on COVID-19, support current knowledge of and use of respirators, PPE use, and CDC-recommended infectious control protocols, and provide experience to students on how to research the Centers of Disease Control educational resources to create and implement a patient education presentation on COVID-19.

"The ability to interact and collaborate with Allied Health faculty of different disciplines from across the country and partner with the CDC has been invaluable for our faculty at ELAC. We also were honored to present at the CDC National Conference on April 4th, 2022, in which we share about the implementation and outcomes integration of the Firstline Project into all ELAC Allied Health Programs," said Allied Health Department Chair Monica Thurston.

# East Los Angeles College Students Attend Flamin' Hot Movie Opening & Q&A Session in Partnership with Poderistas & The LatinX House

East Los Angeles College (ELAC) students attend the opening and participate in the Q&A session of the Director/Actress Eva Longoria's Directional debut film Flamin' Hot. Joined by stars Jesse John Garcia, Annie Gonzalez, Film Writer Linda Yvette Chavez, and Producer DeVon Franklin

Flamin' Hot Movie is a story of family, love, perseverance, and the strength of community, and it's just the type of movie we need to see right now. It's the story of everyday superheroes from our community. The movie is currently streaming on Hulu & Disney Plus and is the most-watched streaming premiere from Searchlight Pictures.

"Flamin' Hot Movie illustrates success comes in many flavors. This story may be similar to the journey of ELAC students, success does not always have to be linear. As a Proud Board Member of the ELAC Foundation, it's important to advocate and provide access for students. My Board colleagues and I are committed to our mission of Transforming the Lives of Students we serve. I know we have so much talent and possibilities at ELAC. The stars of Flamin Hot shared they were thrilled and touched after engaging with ELAC students and

Faculty present." –said Cassandra Sanchez, ELAC Board of Directors.

"We are family-oriented, we're hardworking, we contribute a lot to our society and our community...we are a lot of things. This film is a love letter to the Latino Community...we don't get a lot of chances to make movies about Us, by Us, and for Us. We all did our part, we need you guys to do your part...we need Hollywood to know we matter, and we have stories to tell, & we are amazing story tellers..." said Eva Longoria, Director of Flamin Hot'.

"This is the story of Richard Montanez, a story of underdogs. Everyone in front and behind the camera. We all have a lot to prove, we have to believe in ourselves." said Jesse John Garcia, Lead Actor of Flamin' Hot.



# ELAC Music Professor Performs at Walt Disney Concert Hall

On Tuesday, March 22, 2022, Dr. Lucy Nargizyan, Professor of Music (Piano) at East Los Angeles College performed at the Walt Disney Concert Hall. She joined the Los Angeles Philharmonic musicians Mark Kashper, Tianyu Jia, Leticia Oak Strong, Barry Gold in Schumann's Piano Quintet in E-Flat Major, Op.44.

This was Dr. Nargizyan's fourth appearance in the Los Angeles Philharmonic Chamber Music Concert Series.

**"I am honored to be invited again to perform at the Disney Concert Hall. Last time I performed there in April of 2019, which was before the pandemic. It is very special and exciting to finally be able to play live concerts and collaborate with the wonderful musicians from the Los Angeles Philharmonic orchestra," Said Dr. Nargizyan.**

The ELAC Music Department provides an outstanding comprehensive curriculum for the student who aspires to become a professional musician, songwriter, performing artist, music composer, who plans to enter the teaching profession, for whom music is part of a general education, or who intends to pursue an advanced degree in music. To learn more visit their webpage at <https://www.elac.edu/Academics/Departments/Music/Music-Home>.



# ELAC South Gate Educational Center Receives \$1,850,000 for Allied Health Training Hub

California Congresswoman Nanette Diaz Barragán (D-CA 44th District) joined East Los Angeles (ELAC) South Gate Educational Center students, staff, faculty and Los Angeles Community College District leadership to announce funding for a new Allied Health Training Hub that will serve the South East community. Congresswoman Barragán successfully championed a \$925,000 Community Project Fund Grant for the new training hub.

“The future healthcare career training hub at the South Gate campus of East Los Angeles College will provide remarkable hands-on learning for students entering the health industry. Southeast Los Angeles County is disproportionately impacted by air pollution, underemployment, and other social determinants of health. In order to meet the unique public health challenges of South Gate and surrounding areas, we need a workforce that is representative of our community. That is why I am honored to support this vitally important project in my district,” said Congresswoman Barragán.

The funds will allow the ELAC South Gate Campus to develop a comprehensive training Hub with a focus on allied health careers. This project will also establish curriculum, train students, obtain necessary instructional equipment, and acquire a modular classroom with laboratory capabilities where instruction can occur. South Gate students will

obtain job skills that prepare them employment in the healthcare industry by providing them with work experience and connecting students to internships, and apprenticeships in allied health fields. In addition, the project will also implement a community health and wellness campaign to inform the community about healthy behaviors and the benefits of health careers.

“We want to thank Congresswoman Nanette Diaz Barragán for her tireless advocacy for our students. This Congressional Project Funding is transformative and will make a world of difference for our neediest students,” said LACCD Board President Gabriel Buelna. This funding will enable LACCD to increase the number of health professionals that are linguistically and culturally competent in the South Gate community and in the greater Los Angeles County region.

The South Gate Center currently graduates students every year in the allied health professions. This program will enable the Center to serve more students. In addition, the funding will enable the Center to install a “wet lab,” and necessary tools and equipment to improve teaching and learning.

“This allied health hub will be of tremendous value to our students in the South Gate area. The training and classroom enhancements of this project

will ensure that ELAC continues to increase opportunities to produce the best health care workers in South East Los Angeles.” Said ELAC President Alberto J. Roman.

Congresswoman Barragán represents California’s 44th Congressional District, which includes the communities of Carson, Compton, Florence–Firestone, Lynwood, North Long Beach, Rancho Dominguez, San Pedro, South Gate, Walnut Park, Watts, Willowbrook and Wilmington. She serves as chairwoman of the U.S. House Homeland Border Security Subcommittee.

East Los Angeles College South Gate Center Allied Health Hub will build socioeconomic mobility for residents of South Gate and the greater Southeast Los Angeles community. The Hub will concentrate its efforts on the following three areas:

Increase high-quality training that leads to stackable and industry recognized certificates, credentials, and degrees. Students will be offered free to low-cost training along a career ladder continuum in the following areas; Nursing (including CAN, LVN, and RN), Health Information Technology, Respiratory Therapy, Physical Therapy, Medical Assistant, Pharmacy Technician, Phlebotomy, and Health and Wellness Community Outreach Worker.

Bolster partnerships in the community that lead to internships, apprenticeships,

and employment in the community. This will provide students with work-based learning enabling them to be ready for a high-paying job immediately upon completion. This results in socioeconomic mobility, as well as invigorates the local economy. Industry partners share in ELAC’s commitment to the South Gate community and are prepared to support the Center’s students.

Build and strengthen community awareness and outreach efforts focusing on health and wellness initiatives. In collaboration with government agencies, local organizations, businesses, and providers, the South Gate Center will develop an ongoing health and wellness community awareness campaign. The Center is committed to developing curriculum that leads to a certificate in “Health and Wellness Community Outreach Worker. The curriculum will be culturally and linguistically sensitive and community-centered. The program will train and develop community members, interested in improving the overall health and wellbeing of community residents through community engagement. These Community Health Workers or “Promotoras” will be at the forefront of providing ongoing health and wellness community awareness campaigns, workshops, and seminars on health issues impacting the community.

## U.S. Congresswomen Judy Chu Presents Over \$350,000 Check to Via Care for Mobile Health Clinic and East Los Angeles College Faces Program

U.S. Congresswoman Judy Chu (CA-27) joined Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD), East Los Angeles College (ELAC), and Via Care Community Health Center leadership at the ELAC campus on Wednesday, August 31, 2022, International Overdose Awareness Day, to present a \$150,000 check to Via Care Community Health Center to purchase a mobile health clinic that will provide primary care services for students and the general community including substance use screening and distribution of naloxone. She helped to secure through the 2022 Congressional Community Project Funding (CPF) process which allows Members of Congress to request direct funding for specific projects that benefit the communities they represent.

Via Care also announced the launch of its Naloxone Distribution Project. Funded by the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), this Naloxone Distribution Project aims to reduce opioid overdose deaths through opioid treatment and prevention, and the provision of free naloxone nasal spray.

Last year over 100,000 people died from overdose. 2/3 of these deaths were from fentanyl or another synthetic opioid and overdose is currently the leading cause of death in the United States. Many of these deaths could have been prevented if naloxone had been available. Naloxone is a life-saving medication that can reverse a potentially fatal opioid overdose. For decades it has been distributed directly to people who

use drugs to reverse overdoses within their communities. Equipping health care workers, students, and the general community with naloxone, is the most effective way to prevent overdose deaths.

"On International Overdose Awareness Day, I am incredibly proud to present ViaCare with \$150,000 in Community Project Funding to purchase a mobile health unit that will serve as an integral part of ViaCare's Overdose Harm Reduction Program. This program will provide free naloxone for members of the community to stop and reverse overdoses and save lives. I'm thrilled that the mobile health unit will be able to provide all kinds of services, from primary care to behavioral health and substance use screening, so we can ensure that all members of the community disorder receive the treatment and care they deserve," said U.S. Congresswoman Judy Chu.

"This mobile clinic and the Naloxone Distribution Project will provide medical services and overdose awareness to our students. I want to thank Congresswoman Chu for her continued effort in assisting with the needs of our students," said ELAC President Alberto J. Roman.

"Our low-income community is being hit hard by the rise in fentanyl overdoses. Like knowing how to do CPR in the event of cardiac arrest, carrying naloxone allows you to reverse an overdose and save a life. That's why Via Care will now make naloxone available at all locations, including the ELAC

Student Health Center free of charge, to any member of the community," said Via Care CEO Deborah Villar.

In the same month, U.S. Congresswoman Judy Chu joined the Alhambra Unified School District (AUSD) leadership at Alhambra High School on Friday, August 26, 2022, to present a \$200,000 check to the ELAC Family and Community Engagement Services (FACES) program which she helped to secure through the 2022 Congressional Community Project Funding (CPF) process. Community Project Funding allows Members of Congress to request direct funding for specific projects that benefit the communities they represent.

"As a former educator for over twenty years, I have seen firsthand how higher education serves as a proven pathway to a better future. However, the college preparation process can be difficult to navigate, particularly for students from underrepresented backgrounds such as first-generation students or those from low-income families," said Congresswoman Judy Chu. "This funding for the FACES program will lower the barriers to higher education by providing resources to help students, parents, and families not only prepare for college but also succeed once they get there. I was proud to secure this funding through the fiscal year 2022 Congressional appropriations process."

The FACES program provides support to parents/caregivers, communities, and families of K-12 scholars in the ELAC service area by engaging them and giving them opportunities to be involved. One of these partners is Alhambra Unified School District (AUSD) where students are already taking dual enrollment courses at ELAC and Alhambra High.

"I want to thank Congressman Chu

for her continued support of ELAC and our students. These funds will help to strengthen our bonds with local high schools. FACES helps to build a college-going culture with not only K-12 students in our service area but also their families," said ELAC President Alberto J. Roman.

FACES has provided outreach services at many local high schools including Alhambra High School and continues to build community partnerships and collaborations. Interested parents of first-time college students can also sign up to receive information and support to help their students transition successfully from high school to college.

"Funding provided for the FACES program will strengthen ELAC's collaboration with the East Los Angeles and San Gabriel Valley communities to promote college access while simultaneously strengthening community civic engagement," said LACCD Trustee Kelsey Iino. "We thank Rep. Judy Chu for her relentless support of LACCD and East Los Angeles College students and their families."

"The ELAC FACES program will serve students and their families in an intensive college preparatory academy that provides college information, resources, workshops, and college campus tours for high school students," said LACCD Chancellor Francisco C. Rodriguez. "As a result, students will enter college better prepared with the necessary supports at school and at home to be successful college students."

"We are so appreciative for the wonderful AUSD ELAC Dual Enrollment that opened up doors for Mike that we couldn't have imagined. We are so thankful to have been a part of it," said Candace Winn, Parent of an AUSD Dual Enrollment student and teacher at Brightwood Elementary School.



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### **Mission Statement**

The East Los Angeles College Foundation (ELACF) is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The ELACF is dedicated to the philanthropic support of the East Los Angeles College Community and to empowering the communities we serve through our commitment to student success. Through our enduring efforts, the Foundation is Transforming Lives by investing in the next generation of leaders.

**East Los Angeles College Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. Tax ID# 33-0034221  
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We are excited about the future possibilities as we strive to serve our students better. Every dollar from every donor transforms the lives of our students. Help us Transform a Life Today!

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### Mission Statement

East Los Angeles College empowers students to achieve their educational goals, to expand their individual potential, and to successfully pursue their aspirations for a better future for themselves, their community and the world.

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### Mission Statement

The Mission of the Los Angeles Community College District is to foster student success for all individuals seeking advancement, by providing equitable and supportive learning environments at our nine colleges. The District empowers students to identify and complete their goals through educational and support programs that lead to completion of two or four-year degrees, certificates, transfer, or career preparation. In doing so, the District fulfills its commitment to the community to improve the social welfare of the region, to enhance the local economy, to close persistent equity gaps, and to prepare future community leaders.

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