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Cheers to a New Year!

CEF would like to wish all of our students, teachers, and schools a Happy National Catholic Schools Week! We join you in celebrating Catholic education, and your many contributions to the Church, our communities, and the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

CEF continues to embark on this 31-year-long journey of providing tuition assistance to the most financially deserving students attending Catholic schools within the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. It is your generosity and support that continue to be the key ingredients to our success.

Student Spotlight



Jose David Chanchavac, a current Senior at Bishop Mora Salesian High School and CEF scholar, was recently accepted to Dartmouth College with a full four-year QuestBridge scholarship.

QuestBridge College Prep Scholars Program gives outstanding low-income high school students an early advantage during the college admissions process. Chanchavac applied to ten colleges, eight of which were Ivy league colleges, and was selected to attend Dartmouth College for the fall semester of 2018. Chanchavac has received this merit scholarship which will cover all of his tuition and fees for four years.

However, the road leading up to this great accomplishment was not a walk in the park. Chanchavac was born in Guatemala. At the age of six, his family decided to move to Los Angeles. Throughout his childhood, the Chanchavac family moved from place to place due to financial hardships. During that time, Chanchavac attended St. Matthias Elementary School in Huntington Park and went on to attend Bishop Mora Salesian High School in Boyle Heights.

“From my time at Salesian, I have learned how to be resourceful,” said Chanchavac. “I was always the shy kid and would not often talk to people, but here I was able to open up and begin to communicate with others and teachers.”

While at Salesian, Chanchavac has been part of the National Honor Society, National Spanish Honor Society, and Humanitarian Club. He also runs for the schools' cross country and track team. This year he was elected Associated Student Body President, all while taking five AP classes and maintaining a 4.37 grade point average.

Chanchavac will be graduating in May of this year and said, "Every teacher has had an impact on me in various ways and every moment at Salesian has been worth it." Chanchavac looks forward to starting a new chapter and plans to study computer science at Dartmouth.

"If it wasn't for CEF donors, I don't know if I would be where I am now," said Chanchavac. "Thank you."

Gratitude Corner



Samuel Villarreal, a Junior at St. Paul High School, has expressed his gratitude to the generous donors of CEF.

“I have attended Catholic school since Kindergarten and because of people like you, I am able to further my education and relationship with God. With your assistance, I am able to follow in my brother and sisters’ footsteps in becoming a St. Paul Alumni. It has always been a dream of mine to attend St. Paul, and finally, I am able to be a CEF scholar. It is with the help of people like you that I can come to such a great school with rich history and an even greater tradition. I would like to thank you for being a part of making my childhood a dream come true.”

Road to College



With the assistance of CEF Big Yellow Bus Program, Saint Benedict Elementary School in Montebello took 52 students to visit San Diego State University earlier this month. The purpose of the trip was to motivate students to attend college in the future. The students learned about the University’s history, student lifestyle, and the many opportunities higher education has to offer. Hats off to Saint Benedict for their commitment to helping their students

view education as a pathway to success.

CEF Athlete Shines



Sarah Camarena, Senior at Sacred Heart of Jesus, has recently received First Team All-League award for volleyball. Sarah plays setter and this is her fourth time receiving this award. She went on to say, "Volleyball is my passion. I fell in love with the sport from the very beginning."

Varsity Coach Jennifer Beltran said, "Even before Sarah came to us, one thing that stood out was her work ethic along with her leadership. She is the heartbeat of the group, and what she feels the team feels. It is a great quality of hers that she continues to use in a positive way."

Sarah plans to attend college and study kinesiology. She feels called to help people take care of their bodies.

Sarah has yet to meet a CEF donor but has this message for them, "Thank you for helping me, for helping me get to where I am today. Without you, this wouldn't be possible."

Sarah looks forward to donating and giving back to the Catholic Education Foundation someday to assist students just like her.

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Support CEF when you shop on Amazon by shopping at smile.amazon.com. This is at no cost to you. Simply add "Catholic Education Foundation" as your charitable organization of choice and Amazon will donate a portion of your purchase to CEF.



Send Us Your Stories

If you know a CEF Scholar and would like us to feature their story (achievements, community service, awards, etc.) in an upcoming newsletter, please e-mail our Communications Coordinator, Marina Andalon at

|MC:SUBJECT|

MAndalon@cefdn.org



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