

CLULC SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



Alexandra Soto, Lake Forest College (Lake Forest, IL)

Major: Psychology

I am an undergraduate student at Lake Forest College pursuing a degree in Psychology on the pre-health track. My passion for medicine comes from a personal experience with a cancer scare that deeply impacted me and inspired my commitment to helping others. I plan to attend physician assistant school and dedicate my career to children's health. As a bilingual Spanish speaker, I want to provide culturally competent care and make a meaningful impact in the Latino community. Outside of class, I stay connected through cultural organizations like Unidas, Latinos Unidos, and Fuerza, which strengthen my ties to my campus community. With perseverance and compassion, I am committed to serving others and making a difference in medicine.

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Lupita Villagomez, The University of Chicago (Chicago, IL)

Major: Psychology

My name is Lupita Villagomez, and I am excited to be attending the University of Chicago as a part of the Class of 2029. Growing up in a Hispanic household, I've learned the value of hard work, perseverance, and giving back. Whether it's through volunteering, writing, or leading school clubs, I strive to uplift those around me. Furthermore, pursuing a bachelors in psychology will grant me the opportunity to dedicate my career to making others feel seen and understood; especially within marginalized, Latinx communities who may not have or believe in mental health resources.

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Edeline Wence, American University (Washington, D.C.)

Major: International Studies

My name is Edeline, and I'm the oldest sister among four siblings. I find joy in artistic expression, listening to both old and new Mexican music, caring for my chickens, and enjoying beautiful, warm days. I plan to major in International Studies to deepen my understanding of global interconnectedness as I work toward my goal of becoming a lawyer. While I'm currently drawn to criminal defense law, I remain open to where my path may lead. Growing up in a sanctuary city has exposed me to the realities of law and politics, fueling my passion for social activism. I hope to use my law degree to strengthen communities by fostering more personal, authentic connections across cultural and social divides. I believe lasting change comes from a stronger core, not just a strong exterior, and I aspire to help build a world rooted in empathy, justice, and unity.

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Zeltzin M. Zepeda-Solis, Loyola University Chicago (Chicago, IL)

Major: Nursing

My name is Zeltzin M. Zepeda-Solis, and I am a proud first-generation college student with dreams of becoming a Doctor of Nursing Practice. As a Latina, I understand the challenges that come with fighting for a place in higher education. My ultimate goal is to advocate for equitable healthcare and to create pathways for underserved communities to enter the medical field. This scholarship fuels my determination to pursue nursing and to give back by opening doors for others who face similar barriers

CLULC SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



Dulce Zarinana, Loyola University Chicago (Chicago, IL)

Major: Ed.D in Higher Education

I am a first-generation Latina from Waukegan, passionate about helping Latinx students succeed in their educational journeys. Having faced many challenges myself, I now work as an Academic Advisor at the College of Lake County, supporting first-generation students with care and encouragement. In the future, I hope to create welcoming mentorship programs and advocate for resources that uplift Latinx youth in Lake County. I believe every student deserves to feel proud of who they are and to have the support they need to reach their dreams.

ADDITIONAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT - THANK YOU TO AMERICAN PLACE CASINO!



Sofia Gonzalez, Iowa State University (Ames, Iowa)

Major: Marketing & Entrepreneurship Minor

I am excited to attend Iowa State University in the fall to study Marketing and Entrepreneurship. Because I have always had a passion for creating, it is my dream to own a business in the future, and earning my degree will be a stepping stone to fulfilling this aspiration. More students graduate college today with thousands of dollars in debt, so receiving the Coalicion Latinos Unidos de Lake County (CLULC) scholarship will assist me in achieving many goals, including graduating with a debt-free degree. Although I have been a volunteer cheerleading coach for the past four years, the CLULC has inspired me to continue to volunteer within my community in ways that will serve a greater Latino population. I want to offer college knowledge sessions that will support, encourage, and provide the necessary information for Latino youth in Lake County to pursue their college dreams.

ADDITIONAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT - THANK YOU TO AMERICAN PLACE CASINO!



Adrian Rodriguez, College of Lake County (Grayslake, IL)

Major: Computer Science

I am an international student from El Salvador studying at the College of Lake County. I plan to pursue a bachelor's degree in computer science and later continue with a master's degree to deepen my knowledge. My goal is to become a software developer who is able to use technology to solve real-world problems and bring a smile to people. I am passionate about creating new programs, and I aspire to make them accessible for every community that might be in need of them.

2024-2025 CLULC SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT VIDEO



Kelin Garcia, College of Lake County (Grayslake, IL) **Early Childhood Education**

“As a first-generation student pursuing a degree in Early Childhood Education at the College of Lake County, I am both honored and excited to be a recipient of the Coalición Latinos Unidos de Lake County Scholarship. This scholarship is helping me finish my associates at CLC and pursue a bachelor's degree with confidence and dedication, knowing that my community believes in my potential. I am deeply thankful for the support of the Coalición, which inspires me to give back to the community that has done so much to support me. I am eager to use this opportunity to educate, serve, and inspire other young Latino students that come into my classroom.”

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