

Salvador Bermudez

Salvador Bermudez grew up in a neighborhood surrounded by gang violence, drugs and gunshots. This violence hit home at age ten when his then four-year-old little brother was shot and confined to a wheelchair. Still, this ten year old determined to better his life and his family's lives through education. This was a huge commitment, and school work at times suffered because he was late for school taking care of his now physically challenged brother. Through a supportive single mom, he persevered, even working part time to help with expenses.

The organization Mentoring and Partnership for Youth Development helped him stay focused and follow his dreams of going to college with a hope of becoming a mechanical engineer in the automotive field. He plans to do this at either Citrus College or Wyoming Technical Institute. Graduating from John Muir High School, we proudly present Salvador Bermudez!

Mai-Lin Graves

Mai-Lin Graves is passionate about family and community. She has maintained a 3.5 GPA in the International Baccalaureate program at Blair High School while caring for her grandfather with dementia. She is very active in her church and several clubs at school. After college she is committed to giving back to her community through enhancing education in underserved areas. Mai-Lin will be attending UCLA in the fall.

Jasmine Harris

Jasmine Harris is a very poised, articulate young woman. She is a scholar-athlete, maintaining a 3.45 GPA, while working and participating in volleyball, basketball and track at John Muir High School. She will be attending Cal State Dominguez Hills in the fall of 2016. Jasmine understands loss and struggle in her young life, having walked through the death of several loved ones in her family. During this devastating time, a school counselor helped her with grief and to maintain focus on her goals. Through this struggle, Jasmine found her own calling to become a counselor, planning to enter the counseling field in order to impact students experiencing life's struggles. She has already used these life skills through her mentorship of several students at her church.

Anthony Izaguirre

Anthony Izaguirre has shown incredible focus and motivation toward his dream of becoming an electrical engineer. He excelled in his program at John Muir High School while taking several advanced placement courses and participating in design projects through ACE (architecture, construction and engineering), as well as programs through Caltech and Skunkworks. He was also awarded an opportunity to participate in a prestigious Engineering Innovation course through Johns Hopkins University. Anthony also knows struggle in his life, overcoming bullying in his middle school years, only to gratefully find "his people" as he entered high school. Anthony looks forward to the day he can return to John Muir High School, "with my master's degree in one hand, and a scholarship for a student in the other, letting kids know that if I can do it, they can do it as well." Anthony will be attending California State University of Los Angeles in the fall of 2016.

Emanuel Lopez

Emanuel Lopez is an excellent student, maintaining a 3.89 GPA while taking several advanced placement classes at John Muir High School. He is not only a great student, but a young man who overcame shyness to have impact on many fronts. He volunteers to work with kids at Jackie Robinson and Villa Park, and joins in work to clean and save the environment, his greatest passion. Emanuel plans to attend Cal State LA and major in civil engineering. He also hopes to attain a graduate degree in engineering as well!

D'Mario Lundy

D'Mario Lundy knows what it takes to turn his life around. After 2 years of drifting through high school, D'Mario chose to transfer to Muir High School, focus his attention on academics, a job and sports. He has become a leader to his peers and a mentor to younger students through Mentoring and Partnership for Youth Development (MPYD). He will be attending LA Film School in the fall.

Viviana Quintanilla

As the oldest of 5 children, Viviana Quintanilla took on many extra responsibilities when her mother passed away. For several years starting at 13 she was needed at home to cook, clean and help take care of her siblings. During her last 2 years at Muir High School she participated in Generation Green, the Green Club and was on the softball team. Viviana has maintained a 3.5 GPA. She will be attending PCC and plans on going in the medical field as a pediatrician or nurse.

Dashia Saunderlin

The name Dashia means “The Great” in Thai. Dashia Saunderlin has adopted the motto “Create greatness” to get him through the hard times and influence his decisions throughout his career at Blair High School. He is in the International Baccalaureate program, member of the varsity basketball team, a leader in student government and a paid student advisor to the Pasadena Ambassador Program. In addition, he created the Youth Business Leaders Club on campus and began his own clothing company, Crowns Collection. Dashia will be attending UC Riverside.

Kasey Traylor

Kasey Traylor is no stranger to challenge. Whether it is tackling several advanced placement courses, working to help support her mother who is a single-parent of two, juggling extra-curricular responsibilities or navigating a gang-impacted neighborhood, Kasey faces these challenges with incredible fortitude. She considers the difficulties of her young life “not as a hindrance to my future, but as a launching pad to what is to come.” She also gives to her community, volunteering reading time and tutoring at her local library, and interning at the Chamber of Commerce in their communications department. Kasey will be attending UC Riverside in the fall, hoping to both work and study full-time. After her bachelor’s degree, Kasey wants to attend graduate school, and eventually attain her CPA license to oversee her own accounting practice.

David Vega

David Vega, after realizing he was in the “wrong crowd,” sought help and began to aim high, starting with school. His grades began to soar. He also faced many obstacles in his community. Every obstacle was met with an even greater desire to succeed. If he heard ‘no’ from a program or academic group that denied him, he would just keep going! With this can-do approach to life, he started his school's first Rock Band Club, and found support to obtain all the instruments and sound equipment he needed. He got involved in Generation Green, and through this found his passion and calling. He plans to major in environmental science at Cal State LA.