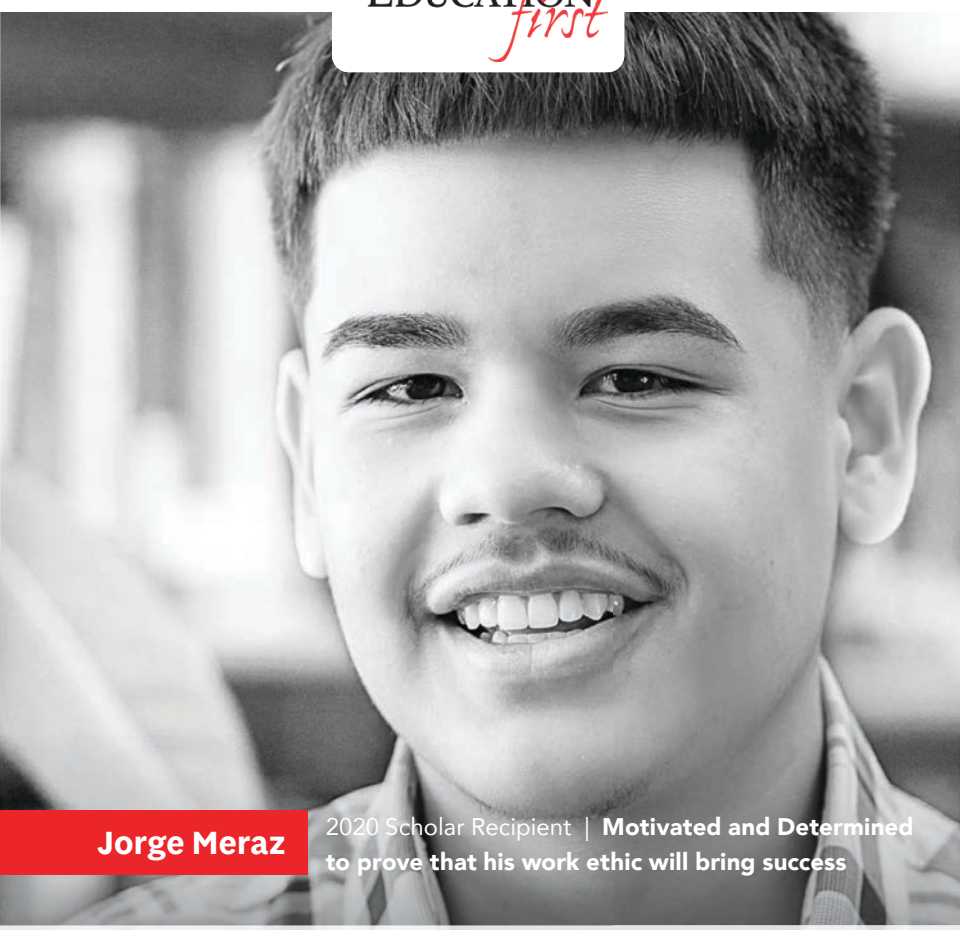


# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



**Jorge Meraz** 2020 Scholar Recipient | Motivated and Determined to prove that his work ethic will bring success

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH college forward

## OUR MISSION



Education First is dedicated to providing need-based college scholarships and coaching to exceptional seniors attending high schools with historically low percentages of college applicants.

Thanks to you, Education First has provided over \$1 million in scholarships!



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## OUR IMPACT



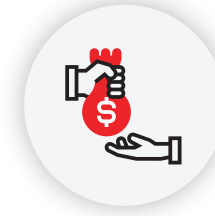
**24**  
PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS



**378**  
APPLICANTS



**144**  
VOLUNTEERS

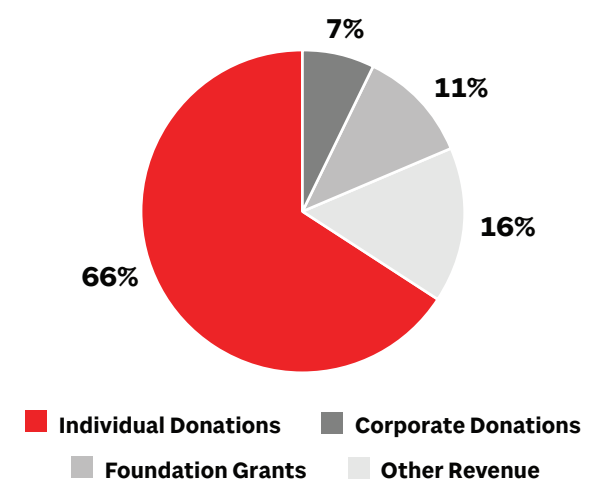


**\$1.064 M**  
IN SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO DATE



**71** COLLEGE COACHING PARTICIPANTS & ALUMNI

## REVENUE



## PARTICIPATING HIGH SCHOOLS

- AUSTIN** - Eastside Memorial | Northeast | Travis
- BOSTON** - Brighton | Brockton | City on the Hill
- DENVER** - Jefferson | North Senior | West
- LOS ANGELES** - Garfield | Jefferson | Manual Arts
- PORTLAND** - David Douglas | Madison | Roosevelt
- SAN DIEGO** - Crawford | Lincoln | Morse
- SAN FRANCISCO** - Balboa | Mission | Thurgood Marshall
- SEATTLE** - Chief Sealth | Cleveland | Rainier Beach

## 2020 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS (\$7,500)

**JOSHUA OSEZUA** Austin | Northeast High School | University of Texas at San Antonio  
Joshua grew up in Nigeria where he faced many obstacles for an education, including limited availability of electricity and physical abuse by teachers in school. After persevering and moving to the U.S., he now plans to study psychology at The University of Texas at San Antonio.

**KEVIN ORTIZ-PEREZ** Austin | Travis High School | Texas State University  
Kevin was raised by a single mother, alongside three siblings, and will be first in his family to attend college. Kevin used to work with his dad and gained valuable insight into the construction industry which inspired him to enroll in the Construction Science and Management program at Texas State University.

**ANNE ST. CYR** Boston | Brockton High School | La Salle University  
Anne lived in Haiti during the 2010 earthquake where her grandmother was trapped under debris and she had to get help. This experience inspired her to work in the medical field so she is studying nursing and works in a nursing home. Anne will continue her studies at La Salle University.

**GIOVANNI BROWNE** Boston | Brockton High School | Central Connecticut State University  
Giovanni grew up in a single-parent household and worked full-time. His football coach, who is also a judge, acted as his mentor and influenced his decision to study Criminology at Central Connecticut State University and become a lawyer so he can help defend families affected by police brutality.

**JASMINE CASTRO** Denver | West High School | Metropolitan State University of Denver  
Jasmine has faced hardships but her family has always been of utmost importance. She will be attending Metropolitan State University of Denver and will be majoring in Nursing so she can help support her family and care for others.

**JORGE MERAZ** Denver | Jefferson Senior High School | Colorado State University  
Jorge is proud of his Hispanic heritage, and is determined to prove that the work ethic his parents instilled in him will allow him to be successful. Jorge will be joining his brother at Colorado State University, Fort Collins to study Construction Management. Together, they plan to assist their father in the family business.

**RAVEN JONES** Los Angeles | Manual Arts High School | Los Angeles Trade-Technical College  
Despite a learning disability, Raven studied hard and developed her self confidence and resilience through extracurricular activities and leadership roles in school to reach her goals. She'll be attending Los Angeles Trade Technical College and then plans to transfer and study Psychology or Public Health.

**TYRA CAREY** Los Angeles | Thomas Jefferson High School | Columbia College Chicago  
Tyra faced instability and homelessness in childhood but found respite in art. She expressed herself with drawings and found joy in animation. She will be the first in her family to attend college and will be going to Columbia College Chicago to pursue a career in animation.

**SABRIN ADEN** Portland | Roosevelt High School | Oregon State University  
Sabrin's family lived in poverty but she emerged motivated to succeed. She is active in school organizations and wants to study Biology at Oregon State University to become a nurse practitioner. Sabrin hopes to establish a non-profit medical assistance organization one day.

**SAVANA SEMALLIE** Portland | Madison High School | Portland State University  
Savana is proud of her Native American and American Samoa heritage and shares her culture with everyone. She is committed to serving her community and nation and intends to double major in Indigenous Studies and Psychology or History and become an educator.

**JIMMY THON** San Diego | Crawford High School | San Diego State University  
Jimmy grew up fearful of being bullied because he was hard of hearing but later found support in his community through a local college prep program. Having peers that normalized being deaf or hard of hearing motivated him to achieve his dreams at San Diego State University where he hopes to continue to help others in the deaf or hard of hearing community.

**KETIA MUKENGE** San Diego | Lincoln High School | University of California, Riverside  
Ketia grew up in Congo where she experienced community violence and educational instability due to a local prison outbreak. Ketia was sent to live with her aunt but struggled learning new languages as she moved from Zimbabwe to the US. Focused on her future, she is determined to overcome any new obstacle to pursue her education.

**DANNA ROMERO** San Francisco | Thurgood Marshall High School | San Francisco State  
Danna is the oldest child and has had to help care for her younger siblings. Growing up, Danna witnessed great injustices and these experiences fueled her passion of studying criminal justice at San Francisco State. She hopes to become a crime scene investigator and would like to give back to her community in the future.

**JAYDEN JOHNSON** San Francisco | Thurgood Marshall High School | California State University - Monterey Bay  
Jayden grew up in a single parent household and worked several jobs throughout school to help support his family. He grew up with a lot of pets and has combined his love of animals and swimming and will be studying Marine Biology at California State University, Monterey Bay.

**LUIS CASTRO** Seattle | Chief Sealth High School | Pitzer College  
As the oldest of seven siblings, Luis strives to be a positive role model and dreams of starting his own non-profit. Luis is a Bank of America student leader, volunteers for the library, and is a member of an environmental action club. He will be attending Pitzer College majoring in Business Admin or Economics.

**TUYET-NHI VO** Seattle | Rainier Beach High School | Western Washington University  
Tuyet-Nhi is a Running Start student, works two part-time jobs, and stays actively involved in her community by volunteering for two Seattle nonprofits. She will be going to Western Washington University majoring in Public Health and hopes to further her philanthropic efforts.

## MAKING COLLEGE DREAMS COME TRUE

Education First identifies and supports seniors who are determined to achieve their academic goals beyond high school. Our volunteers, donors, and community partners allow us to help students overcome the financial obstacles that stand in between them and their pursuit of higher education.

**"No matter what obstacles life brings you, you can always get through it."**

-Jorge Meraz  
2020 Scholarship Recipient

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