



April 2023

## CEO Update

We are about a week away from our annual fundraiser Opportunity for Impact and I'm proud to share that thanks to our generous community, we have already raised \$350,000 for our afterschool programs! Thank you to our Exclusive Title Sponsor, K. Andrew Achterkirchen (or Mr. Andy as our students call him) and all our event partners for making this year's event such a success already.

Part of this success is the result of a brand new \$25,000 challenge grant thanks to a very kind anonymous donor.



Donations will be **matched dollar for dollar up to \$25,000** between now and the night of the event. We have already secured \$15,000 in early pledge commitments and you can donate online if you are unable to attend the event.

The spring is a busy time of year for our students with college acceptances culminating on May 2<sup>nd</sup> for BLCI's annual Decision Day. The next generation of college applicants just returned from the most anticipated event of the year, the annual college visits. I hope you had the chance to see the photos our students shared during the student social media takeover. If not, visit our Instagram pages to see a few highlights from this annual trip that helps our students prepare and plan for their future as college freshmen.

Ticket sales close on Friday at midnight, so be sure to reserve your spot today. BLCI Alum and PhD Candidate, Lupita Barajas will be this year's keynote speaker. She will be sharing her story on how education has changed her life and what motivated her to pursue a career in science. Read more about Lupita and hear her inspiring story on May 11<sup>th</sup>!

*Sara Boquin*

Chief Executive Officer, BLCI

# 2023 OFI Speaker Announced

We are pleased to introduce our Opportunity for Impact 2023 Speaker, BLCI Alumni Guadalupe "Lupita" Barajas Vasques.

After graduating from Point Loma High School in 2013, Lupita went on to Trinity College where she received a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science and French Studies in 2017. Now, she is working toward her Ph.D. in the Joint Doctoral Program in Ecology at San Diego State University and University of California, Davis.



Lupita shared, "BLCI helped foster my love and passion for nature through the outdoor extracurriculars, all the while supporting my dreams of becoming a Latina in STEM."

Please join us on Thursday, May 11th to hear from students past and present whose lives have been changed by education.

## Auction Preview

Make an impact when you bid on a variety of auction items at this year's Opportunity for Impact. New this year, two live auction packages that are a perfect compliment to any milestone celebration, or just an excuse to get away and have some fun. Questions? contact [megan@BLCI.org](mailto:megan@BLCI.org)



Ever wondered what it would be like to brew your own craft beer? Join the team at [Mission Brewery](#) for a behind the scenes VIP Brewer's Experience where you will take a journey of Mission Beer from grain to glass. Learn from their educated guides while you sample and develop your very own small batch custom brew.

VIP Experience includes an initial consultation to help design your perfect beer, a \$100 merch credit so you can rep your new product, a return visit

midway through the brewing process to check on your brew, and finally a private release party for you and 10 of your friends where you will get to sample your very own beer straight from the tap. Small batch will produce about 10 cases total - plenty for your private release party and some leftover to enjoy at a later date.

Mission Brewery has a rich history and delicious craft beer. This unique experience is perfect to celebrate the next milestone in your life (wedding,

birthday, retirement celebration) or for no reason other than the chance to experience a San Diego favorite that has been serving the community since 1913.

If you're looking for a change of scenery, this is the perfect getaway for you! This cozy home in [Cannon Beach, Oregon](#) offers beautiful views of the Oregon Coast, including famous Haystack Rock, and can be your own private oasis for seven nights.

The house can accommodate up to eight guests with two queen-sized beds and two sets of twin-sized bunk beds. Whether you fly into Portland International Airport and make the two-hour drive, or take a road trip up Highway 101, this will be a vacation you won't soon forget!



Cannon Beach is regarded as one of the 100 Most Beautiful Places in The World and offers a wide range of activities! Fill your week with fun by going whale watching at nearby Ecola State Park, exploring lush hiking trails, enjoying fresh seafood at local restaurants, and soaking in the small-town charm that Cannon Beach has to offer.

*Want to see more of our exciting auction packages? Follow along on social media as we share them over the next two weeks!*

[Purchase Tickets](#)

## Make An Impact & Celebrate BLCI

Please join us for Opportunity For Impact 2023!

May 11, 2023 | 5-8 PM Bali Hai

Meet BLCI students, bid in the live and silent auction, enjoy cocktails and delicious food stations. Funds will support BLCI's existing college completion programs and help fund expansion efforts to increase the capacity at BLCI El Cajon and Chula Vista locations.

**Thank you to our event sponsors for making an impact and ensuring our students are the first in their families to attend and graduate college.**

**Exclusive Title Sponsor**  
K. Andrew Achterkirchen



Masters in Philanthropy  
Vicki and Moises Baron



Bachelors in Philanthropy



**SYCUAN**

Associates in Philanthropy  
Sara Boquin | Christa Burke | Alicia & Keith Kitagawa



*Tickets are almost sold out - RSVP today to reserve your spot!*

Purchase Tickets

## Give The Gift of Education

Thank you for helping us break the cycle of poverty through education. With your support, we look forward to another year of sending 100% of our students to college.

Make an Impact  
Today

## Follow us on Social Media!



*Have questions about our newsletter? Contact us at [info@blci.org](mailto:info@blci.org)*