“BLCI has been my support system since third grade. It has provided me endless opportunities for self-growth, efficient mentorship, and resources to thrive as a first-generation college student. Additionally, it challenged me to better myself as a student, activist, and person.”

- Ashley Valentin, BLCI Class of 2019
Growing up in Peru, college was not a realistic goal for Cristel Rosales. Higher education was reserved for the wealthy, and between she and her grandmother, there were not enough resources to make college a possibility. At 18, she migrated to the United States, received her G.E.D. and met her husband while taking English as a Second Language classes at a community college. Her husband immigrated at a young age and was not able to complete high school, as he delivered papers to support his single mother and siblings.

“We felt that we didn’t have the opportunity to continue studying because we had to continue working and take care of our kids. We didn’t have a support system or know of available resources. We didn’t have tutors, or anyone to help with reading and English. Consequently, I am always looking for resources for my son and daughters.”

Cristel knew that higher education was important for her children. She wanted them to be able to provide more for their future families and grow to be assets to the community. The Rosales family now has two children, Miguel and Michele, enrolled in BLCI’s programs.

“I remember the first time Michele came back from BLCI and told me that she was going to go to college, and was determined to be admitted to Harvard. It made me cry tears of joy and further motivated me as a mother to continue supporting her and encourage them to take advantage of the resources that BLCI was providing. My children being in BLCI makes me think that any of the dreams and aspirations that they have are possible.”
LIVES CHANGED

MEET ALUMNA ASHLEY GONZALEZ

Ashley grew up in a low-income community near downtown San Diego where she was exposed to gang violence and drugs. She believed that other kids had the same experiences. Neither of her parents had completed elementary school and she saw family members fall victim to drug addiction. It wasn’t until she attended Cathedral Catholic High School on a scholarship that she learned this was not the norm.

“I began to see how in neighboring high-income areas, it was really green and stores promoted healthy living. In Logan Heights, there’s a liquor store on every corner, Walmart is the grocery store and it’s more industrial, so there’s more pollution and a higher risk of asthma. We’re supposed to be the children of the future, but our zip code determines how well we are going to do in school and where we will go to college. It made me furious.”

Ashley’s early experiences of inequalities fueled her passion for social and environmental justice. She was enrolled in BLCI’s programs, where she was empowered to explore these issues deeper and take action. Ashley became involved in BLCI’s Circulo de Mujeres and the Leadership Council where she was able to meet with students with similar interests and grow her communication skills. Most importantly, she learned to embrace her Mexican heritage as she was surrounded by students with the same experiences growing up.

Today, Ashley is a sophomore at the University of San Diego. She continues to use her voice to be a catalyst for change.
SARA BOQUIN

In an unprecedented year of change, the need for Barrio Logan College Institute services became more vital than ever.

In late January 2020, we moved into our new facility with excitement over delivering our curriculum in a state-of-the-art space. Seven weeks later, COVID-19 became a threat to our mission. As the pandemic displaced and disrupted our sense of normalcy, we kept our focus on educating, providing resources and ensuring staff had the tools to deliver workshops and tutoring in innovative ways.

As the impact of the pandemic waded through our families, our staff and our community, we proved that with determination, we are resilient. Parent meeting participation doubled. Volunteers from across the state signed up. Our students expanded their world beyond San Diego, with activities such as taking a virtual tour of Columbia University in New York City, and visiting the Grammy Museum in Los Angeles. We successfully enrolled 100% of our class of 2020 into four-year universities.

The continued success of our students is a culmination of the hard work and dedication of our staff, partners, donors, volunteers and Board of Directors. Our coming together and supporting the families requires effort beyond any one individual. It truly takes a village, and this past year, the village responded with support, funding, and valuable time.

This year, we look forward to returning to in-person services and incorporating the lessons of a virtual environment. We will continue to build partnerships, evaluate the impact of our programs, and yield not only impressive college admissions rates, but increase the number of first generation to college graduates.

Sara Boquin
Chief Executive Officer
Dear Friends,

The events of last year have tested every student and family in the San Diego region. For Barrio Logan College Institute, COVID-19 tore through the communities that we serve deeper than in many other areas.

But just as a once-in-a-century pandemic laid bare the many fault lines of poverty, at BLCI, it also revealed the drive and determination that has pulled family after family out of poverty through the power of higher education for 25 years.

Together, the BLCI community rallied to bridge the digital divide for our students. We found virtual ways to support their education. We continued to send 100 percent of the students in our programs to college.

The effects of COVID-19 will leave many families with learning loss, lost jobs and income, debt, and, for some, lost family members. Our work is far from done, but the community of BLCI supporters helped to protect students from some of the cruelest effects of the pandemic.

I join my fellow board members in thanking our staff and volunteers for helping the families of BLCI persevere in the face of unprecedented adversity. I also extend our deepest gratitude to our unwavering BLCI donors who stepped in to ensure we would not be deterred from lifting families out of poverty through the promise of higher education.

One day in the future, I am certain that our students will reminisce with family and friends about their BLCI virtual classes during the historic COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks to you, above them on a wall, will be a framed college diploma.

Sincerely,

Susy Villegas

Susy Villegas
Board Chair
25 years ago, BLCI founder Kenny Rogers saw the need for an innovative college preparatory organization that would combat the inequalities in our education system. The mission was simple: prepare underserved youth to be first in their families to go to college, through after school programs that begin in third grade.

With your help, this mission has transformed thousands of lives. BLCI’s innovative approach to after school programming puts a heavy emphasis on parent involvement and promotes college knowledge to students as young as eight years old. This unique method has allowed BLCI to send 100% of its graduating students to college, and advance our vision, that every child shall have access to higher education, not limited by culture or status, resulting in a thriving community and a better world.

“My older siblings went to BLCI in third grade, so I followed in their footsteps. The programs have helped me be more confident and helped me with school work. I am really grateful for BLCI - knowing the people here and the chances it gives me, like visiting colleges and having Circulo de Hombres.”

- Benito Velez
Education is the most powerful tool we have. It allows us to develop perspective, build opinions and think critically. It opens doors to better career opportunities and higher paying jobs, resulting in stability and financial security. Education has the power to change a life, yet less than half of San Diego’s residents ages 25-64 hold a credential beyond high school. For Hispanic students, that attainment rate is even lower: 19.9%.

BLCI serves the Barrio Logan, El Cajon and Chula Vista neighborhoods where educational attainment rates are low and poverty rates are high. Our first generation college students face many barriers to academic success, including language and cultural differences which make navigating the school system very difficult.

“BLCI is more than just an after school program. It is a family, it’s my second home, and it’s a place where dreams become a reality.”

-Zimrri Gudino, BLCI Class of 2014
IMPACT

86% OF ALUMNI PERSISTED IN COLLEGE

3.8 AVERAGE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE GPA

85% OF COLLEGE GRADUATES EMPLOYED

73% OF ALUMNI GRADUATED WITH A B.A.

100% OF GRADUATING SENIORS ENROLLED IN AN ACCREDITED COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY

4,000+ PARENT VOLUNTEER HOURS SERVED

100% OF STUDENTS ON TRACK TO GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL

“BLCI supported me as I navigated being homeless in high school. The first time I boarded a plane was with BLCI on our Bay Area trip to tour universities. They opened a world of possibilities that I didn’t know existed outside of San Diego. The relationships I developed within the organization provided me with the safety and stability I needed to thrive as a student and person.”

- Sinai Cota, BLCI Class of 2009
Programs & Services

“I have the privilege of working with our students and their families to help them achieve the goal of obtaining their college degree. I was the first person in my family to go to college and get my Bachelor’s degree, so I understand the obstacles that first-generation students face. I understand the significance and pride that earning a college degree is to our families.”

-Julian Villalvazo, High School Specialist
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROGRAM
- Book Club
- Mechanics of Writing and Reading
- Math
- Technology
- Spelling Bee Competition
- University Tours
- Interview Skills
- Intro to College Applications
- Tutoring

MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM
- Reading Comprehension and Vocabulary
- Organizational and Study Skills
- Career Exploration
- Financial Literacy
- Integrated Math
- Time Management
- Foreign Language
- High School 4-year Plan
- Tutoring

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM
- 9th Grade Boot Camp
- Job Trends
- Northern California and Los Angeles College Campus Visits
- Career Exploration
- Tutoring
- Mental Health Workshops

COLLEGE SUCCESS PROGRAM
- College Applications
- FAFSA Application
- Scholarships
- Summer Job/Internship
- College List
- Extracurricular Activities
- Career Exploration
- Resume Building
- SAT & ACT Prep
- Honor and AP Course Enrollment
- College Majors
- Letters of Recommendation
- College Readiness Bootcamp
- Leadership Program

LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
- Circulo de Hombres
- Circulo des Mujeres
- Self-advocacy and Self-confidence
- Emotional Intelligence
- Presentation Skills
- Community History
- Community Service

PARENT PROGRAM
- Building Credit for Youth
- Mental Health Workshops
- Family Literacy Program
- Sewing Classes
- Outdoor Activities (kayaking, paddle boarding, hiking, fishing)
- Book Club
- Parenting Classes
- Healthy Relationships Workshops

SOCCER PROGRAM
“Soccer is the Hook - College is the Goal”
- Outdoor and Indoor Leagues
- Tournaments
- GPA Standards
- Community Service Events
- Friday Futsal
- Healthy Living
- Good Decision-making
- Coaching internship
COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Balboa Park
Casa Familiar
Coronado Rotary Club
El Cajon Collaborative
El Cajon Recreational Council
Environmental Health Coalition
Generations on the Move
Grossmont Community College
HP
I Love A Clean San Diego
International Rescue Committee
Irma Castro
La Jolla Athenaeum Arts Center
Lucila Hernandez
New Children's Museum
Outdoor Outreach
Petco
Princeton Alumni
Point Loma Nazarene University
Raquel Arostegui
Raytheon
Sally Ride Science
San Diego City College
San Diego Council on Literacy
San Diego Red Cross
San Diego State University
San Ysidro Health Center
SAY San Diego
Sony KOOV
South Bay Community Services/SBCS
Stanford Alumni Association
Study Smart Tutors
Teach for America
The Scripps Research Institute
University of California, San Diego
University of San Diego
Up2Us Sports – VISTAS
Warm Dorm
Winward Academy
Words Alive
YMCA Camp Marston
FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT:
In fiscal year 2020, Barrio Logan College Institute had total private and public support revenue of $2.9 million.

FINANCIALS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020

BLCI is committed to investing your contributions efficiently and effectively to break the cycle of poverty.

EXPENSES
- Elementary School Programs
- Middle School Programs
- High School/CSP
- Parent Program
- Scholarships
- Supporting Services

REVENUE
- Individuals
- Corporations
- Foundation
- Government
- Interest (Other)
LEADERSHIP

With support from compassionate and capable leaders, BLCI is able to serve the growing number of students in need of college readiness support.

“The first-generation students and families of BLCI inspire me every day. They are undeniable proof that we can build better and more equitable future generations through the work of BLCI.”

- Susana Villegas, BLCI Board Chair

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Keegan McNamara
Vice Chair; Principal, McNamara Real Estate Ventures

Alicia Quinn
Treasurer; Vice President of New Business Development, United Way of San Diego

Ingrid de Llamas
Board Secretary; Director of Philanthropy, Comic-Con Museum

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Retired Engineering Executive, Philanthropist, Volunteer Tutor

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Educational Consultant

Adelita Jasso
BLCI Parent; Licensed Vocational Nurse, State of California

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Founder and Chairman, Terra Education, Inc.

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Retired, Co-Founder, Ross Partners Leadership Development; SD Social Venture Partners

Jolyn Parker
Vice-President External Relations, San Diego Oasis

John Pacheco
Assistant General Counsel-SDG&E

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Teresa Contreras
Chief Philanthropy Officer

Cristina Aguirre
Chief Programs Officer

Cecilia Carbajal Chavez
Upward Bound Director

Tomasa Mauricio
Barrio Logan Director

Zainab Salih
El Cajon Manager

Lisa Santa Cruz
Promise Neighborhoods Director

Nadia Fonseca
Chula Vista Manager
SUPPORTERS

BLCI’s partners are recognized for their history of generous support and involvement in making young students’ dreams of going to college a reality.

“BLCI has truly been the backbone for my educational retention and success. BLCI helped me navigate the transfer process and provided me with the necessary tools and support to not only attain higher education but to be successful. I am so thankful for all the opportunities BLCI has given me and my family!”

- Ana Victoria Hernandez, BLCI Class of 2016
Carlos Carriedo
Joseph Carmellino & Sandra Daley, M.D.
Loreen Collins
Dan Cameron Family Foundation
Dr. Paula Cordeiro & David O’Brien
Judy Eby
Dianne Gregg & Elliot Rosen
Summer Girgis
Rodrigo & Emily Guevara
Loreen Collins
Dan Cameron Family Foundation
Dr. Paula Cordeiro & David O’Brien
Judy Eby
Dianne Gregg & Elliot Rosen
Summer Girgis
Rodrigo & Emily Guevara

Michael Hutchens
LAPA Foundation For Excellence
Jill Limber
David & Sarah Lopez
Cooper McLaughlin
Mission Federal Credit Union
Paula Morgan
Andrew Motiwalla
NASSCO
The New Children’s Museum
Nonprofits Insurance Alliance of California
Kathy & Steve Parker
San Diego Unified Port District
Jerry Sanders
Timothy Skorheim
Stephanie Smith
Barbara Snodgrass
Irene & Jay Sowle
Nancy & Alan Spector
Gregory Stone
Melesse & Robert Traylor
Judith Wenker
Karin Winner
Witter Bynner Foundation for Poetry

$1,000 - $2,499
Linda Altes
Carolyn & Arden Bercovitz
Cynthia & Nick Billings
Mark & Sandra Brumer
Nancy Cannon-O’Connell
Darlene & Kenneth Carpenter
City Mark Realty
Classroom of the Future Foundation
Derek Couse
James Cravens
Kay Davis
Laura Deitrick
Karen DeLaurier
Kim Doren
Berit Durler

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Stonefelf Fund
Karen & Scott Tritt
Lynda & Fred Tuomi
Mary Ellen Walther

$2,500 - $4,999
Allianz Global Investors
Angelo’s Towing & Recovery
Kevin Ashley
Cyndy & Matt Booker
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Jose A. Cruz Torres
Ingrid de Llamas
Stephanie & John Garcia
Ben Garcia
Rob Howard
Dennis Hunter

Manuel & Francine Welchez
Anne Weston
Tony & Elizabeth Yaksh
Anna Ybarra
SUPPORT BARRIO LOGAN COLLEGE INSTITUTE AND TRANSFORM LIVES

DONATE. VOLUNTEER. ADVOCATE. EDUCATE.

BLCI is a community-based organization that prepares underserved youth for higher education, through after school programs that begin in third grade. Our vision is that every child shall have access to higher education, not limited by culture or status, resulting in a thriving community and better world.

Join us in advocating for and supporting those who do not have equal opportunities in education.

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