



October 2023

CEO Update

Every day students walk in the doors at BLCI and take a step towards building their future just by showing up. Walking this path with them are people like you and members of our community who know the difference that can be made through education. This month, we share with you a story about what can happen when our students and community partners work together.



Life Science Cares is a dedicated partner of BLCI and they took their support to a new level when they hired recent grad and BLCI alumni Azareel Canizales. As far back as I can remember, Azareel has been a part of BLCI. He's a natural leader, driven by curiosity and cares about those around him, especially his family. Azareel was part of the BLCI leadership council, and he flourished as a leader. He led the community through an open dialogue about some of the most challenging topics impacting families in Barrio Logan by creating and receiving funding for the Community Converse Conference. While at SDSU, Azareel was among an exclusive group of students selected as a prestigious Fowlers Scholar. It surprises no one that Azareel has continued to succeed.

Alumni are the best representatives of what we do. They are the final product. Having one of our most dedicated funders benefit from the investment they are making in BLCI is rewarding and speaks to the possibility of collaboration.

Learn more about Azareel's story and join us on November 9th for our BLCI Open House where you can meet the next generation of alumni.

Sara Boquin
Chief Executive Officer, BLCI

Alumni Spotlight | Azareel Canizales

BLCI and Life Science Cares – A
Full Circle of Community
Engagement

BLCI is fortunate to have the support of our community. Among these supporters is Life Science Cares, who selected BLCI as a Nonprofit Partner in 2020 and in addition to awarding financial support, has leveraged their vast membership to directly support BLCI and our families. Life Science Cares connects BLCI with life science companies across San Diego who support our mission of breaking the cycle of poverty by preparing underserved students to become the first in their family to go to college. We are fortunate to have Life Science Cares and their partners support us in several ways including: Adopt-A-Family during the holidays, providing backpacks for our Back-2-School Drive, and much more to ensure our students achieve success.



AZAREEL CANIZALES
BLCI CLASS OF 2019

The partnership has come full circle with the recent hire of BLCI Alumnus, Azareel Canizales (Class of 2019) as the Manager of Project Onramp, a program run by Life Science cares that creates paid internships for college students who are under-resourced and underrepresented, helping to bridge the opportunity gap and provide opportunities for professional development.

Leane Marchese, Executive Director of Life Science Cares San Diego invited BLCI CEO, Sara Boquin to speak at Give Back Event with one of their partners, Deloitte. The company assembled STEM kits for BLCI students and Sara invited Azareel to speak about his experience with BLCI and his journey as a young person from an underserved community. Leane was immediately impressed with Azareel. “He was passionate, composed and well-spoken, and completely committed to helping those like himself. He was so thankful for his experience at BLCI. BLCI really shaped his path in life and his goals and supported him for many years. It was an incredible testament to the work of BLCI and I knew then and there that I would invite Azareel to join our team at Life Science Cares and lead our effort for Project Onramp: a program that provides paid internships to under resourced college students. He is a wonderful addition to our team and an asset as we launch Project Onramp.”

Azareel credits the skills he developed in his years at BLCI through programs such as Circulo de Hombres, Communities Converse Conference, and the CEO’s Leadership Council to prepare him for a successful life outside of college. After graduating from San Diego State University with a degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Human Resources, he was unsure as to which sector he wanted to pursue a career in, whether that be with nonprofit or for-profit organizations. Life Science Cares provides a perfect blend of the two by being the liaison between Life Science companies and nonprofits in San Diego that work together to reduce the impact of poverty.

We are proud of our students like Azareel who exemplify what can be possible when students are given a chance to succeed, and proud of our valued community partners like Life Science Cares, who support our students in and outside of our programs.

Next Week | You're Invited!



BARRIO LOGAN COLLEGE INSTITUTE OPEN HOUSE

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2023, 5-7 PM
2114 NATIONAL AVE, SAN DIEGO, CA 92113

A conversation with students and staff at the BLCI Barrio Logan site. Hear from our students how BLCI is helping prepare them for college and how members of the community can support our students.

RSVP HERE!



<https://forms.office.com/r/lkRTBvbGx>

OPEN HOUSE AGENDA

5:00 - 6:30 PM: Student led tours and refreshments

6:30 - 7:00 PM: Formal remarks from BLCI leadership and student representatives

Questions? Contact darby@blici.org



RSVP Today!

Program Spotlight | Middle School Program

Learning about many careers early on helps students understand the value of a college degree.



Building the Foundation | Building Skills and Behavioral Support

As our students move into the Middle School Program from 5th to 6th grade, the Behavioral Development component of the BLCI ABC's increases to 50% of workshops that they participate in each week. Laying the foundation to enter high school, our workshops focus on discussions and activities concerning methods of coping, developing responsibility, and learning how to regulate emotions.

The remaining half of our workshops in the Middle School Program consists of equal parts of the Academic Support and College Knowledge component of the BLCI ABC's. It is impactful to let our students know at a younger age the wide array of options that they have when it comes to the potential colleges they could attend and the careers that could thrive from the majors they choose.

"It's never too early to start planning college visits, which are especially important for first-generation students. By extending educational opportunities for traditionally disadvantaged youths, early college knowledge prepares our students to learn about majors and careers." Xitlaly Uribe, Barrio Logan Middle School Specialist

Give the Gift of Education

Save the Date | #GivingTuesday

SAVE THE DATE



**BLCI WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN
#GIVINGTUESDAY ONCE AGAIN THIS
YEAR!**

Mark your calendar for #GivingTuesday and join BLCI and our efforts to combat poverty through education! Giving is not just about making a donation. It is about making a difference. On #GivingTuesday and every day throughout the year, you can help BLCI change the trajectory of the lives of our students through education. More details to follow on how you make a difference and build the path to education for our students.

[Learn more about #GivingTuesday and how a simple idea of a day that encourages people to do good changed the nonprofit community.](#)

Follow us on Social Media!



Contact info@blci.org with questions or to schedule a tour today!

Barrio Logan College Institute | 2114 National Avenue, San Diego, CA 92113

[Unsubscribe info@blci.org](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by info@blci.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!