



February 2024

## CEO Update | Top 10 Things I Love About BLCI

This past month, Sara Boquin celebrated 10 years with BLCI. Prior to taking on the role of CEO, Sara served as BLCI's Chief Operations Officer and led the efforts to expand BLCI's impact throughout San Diego County, including our newest locations in Chula Vista and El Cajon. Her current goal is to strengthen BLCI's services and establish additional programs in deserving communities.

We asked Sara to reflect on this past decade and share the top 10 things she loves about BLCI and she shares her answers below.



Congratulations Sara and thank you for changing the lives of hundreds of students every year.

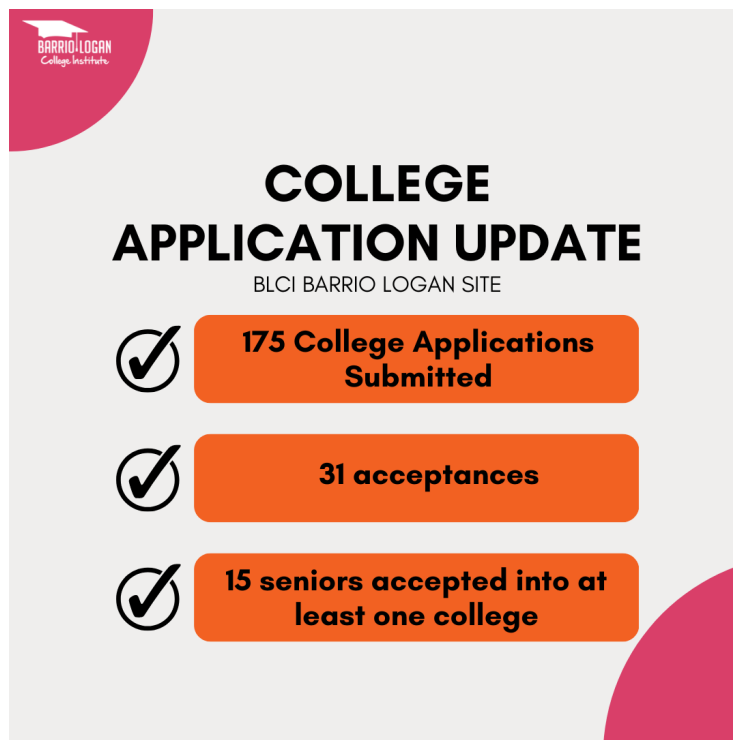
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### Top 10 Highlights:

1. Growth – our expansion from 14 staff to 40, from 200 + students to over 600 into 5 different communities.
2. Opening our first permanent location in Barrio Logan. This site opened at the height of the pandemic and is our home base for all programs and communities. Seeing it full today after years of preparation is a highlight.
3. Seeing the development and advancement of the BLCI model. This has made such an impact on how we deliver services and our effectiveness as an organization. Our first cohort of students from Chula Vista were a part of this growth and last year, these students' hard work paid off and 100% are now enrolled in college.
4. Watching the little 3rd graders who cried on their first day at drop off grow into confident young adults who are excited about their future.
5. BLCI parents. The found family they create with each other and with the BLCI staff and the way they support each other is a positive outcome of the program. Our programs focus on supporting the entire family unit and this connection shows. We have parents helping each other with school placements and resources, teaching sewing and so much more. BLCI is a mini family community center.

6. The siblings. Watching the little ones who were too young for BLCI grow up and tell their parents they want to go to BLCI too because they watch their older sibling do so. College becomes more and more attainable with each generation. And our older siblings help lead the way.
7. The staff. They dedicate their entire selves to this work. Like the families they serve, they come from first-generation backgrounds and give their all to our communities. Many say I wish I had this growing up, and this is why they give so much – helping others honor the path they had to forge to get through college and they all want to give back.
8. The partners—they help provide incredible experiences for our students and unforgettable moments, like the book club, where students created an art piece based on their favorite books and it still hangs in our library today. Each field trip, behind the scenes tour, or exposure to a STEM lab or career has helped define our students' future.
9. Our donors and supporters believe in the magic of BLCI (It's not magic, it's an earned opportunity of hard work and passion) and stand with our students and cheer them on through their path to college simply because they believe in them.
10. GRADUATION! Somehow this day gets better with each year. What is extra rewarding is when our college graduates come back to share their success. From 18 to 22 they develop into confident, serious, young adults who have surpassed all expectations and are at the cusp of a successful and happy life.

## Senior Spotlight | Class of 2024



Your support and our students' hard work is paying off - 31 college acceptances so far. Be sure to follow our socials to see the progress of all our students and where our senior class will be heading next year.

Give the Gift of Education

# Save the Date | Opportunity for Impact 2024



## SAVE THE DATE

BLCI'S ANNUAL FUNDRAISER  
**OPPORTUNITY FOR IMPACT**



### MAY 8TH, 2024

FARMER & THE SEAHORSE  
10996 TORREYANA ROAD, SUITE 240, SAN DIEGO, CA 92121

Mark your calendar for BLCI's annual fundraiser, Opportunity for Impact, on Wednesday, May 8th, 2024 at Farmer & The Seahorse! Opportunity for Impact is a special evening for our community to come together to break the cycle of poverty by preparing students from underserved communities to be the first in their families to attend and graduate college and we would love to see you there. Tickets go on sale March 1st, 2024!

Interested in learning more about sponsorship opportunities for Opportunity for Impact?  
Contact [megan@blici.org](mailto:megan@blici.org) today!

## BLCI Annual Report



**BREAKING THE CYCLE OF  
POVERTY BY PREPARING  
UNDERSERVED STUDENTS TO  
BE THE FIRST IN THEIR FAMILY  
TO ATTEND & GRADUATE FROM  
COLLEGE THROUGH NO-COST  
AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS  
THAT BEGIN IN THIRD GRADE.**

## **ANNUAL REPORT FY23**



**Read Our Full FY23 Annual Report**

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*Contact [info@blci.org](mailto:info@blci.org) with questions or to schedule a tour today!*

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