



April 2024

CEO Update

Spring break has come to a close for our students and for BLCI rising seniors, this culminates with a highlight of the BLCI experience – the Northern California College visit. Our students begin visiting local colleges as early as the third grade. This is part of our strategic efforts to promote a college-going culture and to provide inspiration for persisting in school. As the students' time with BLCI grows, so does their exposure to colleges outside of their local community. During their junior year, students will make one of the biggest decisions of their young lives when they begin identifying which colleges they will apply to. For most



high school students, this decision is based on college visits, but for families like ours who face economic challenges and may not have access to extended time off from work, a trip like this would not be possible. The college visits give them a chance to develop a sense of what they like about campuses and what kind of school they can envision for their future. Additionally, the trip is the first time many of the students have left San Diego and the experience helps the students get a better sense of whether they would feel comfortable being far from home or if they are better suited to attend a school locally. The trips are a tangible way of putting their dreams of being the first member of their family to go to college within reach. These trips are made possible thanks to your philanthropic support, and I encourage you to check out our socials next week. Our students will be taking over our accounts and will be sharing this wonderful adventure with you.

You can support activities like these when you attend Opportunity for Impact on May 8. There's still time to [reserve your seat](#) and I look forward to seeing you there. Another way to support our students' path to college is by making a donation to the [BLCI Scholarship Match](#). This incredible opportunity made possible thanks to the generosity of Robert and Molly Schulze will match donations for

current use and endowed scholarship funds.

Finally, I am thrilled to share a fundraising opportunity made possible thanks to a dedicated group of anonymous volunteers affectionately known as The Warm Dormers. For the past 20 years, this group has been secretly supplying our soon to be college freshman with items to outfit their college dorm. The extra cost for items such as bedding, communal living supplies, lap desks and surge protectors are an extreme financial hardship for BLCI families, and these gifts ensure BLCI students



begin their college journey at the same level as their counterparts and have their basic needs met. Each year the group hosts a community garage sale to help raise funds for these much-needed supplies. The first class of seniors the group supported consisted of less than 10 graduates – this year, we will celebrate the accomplishments of 79 seniors. Far more than they can supply. You can purchase supplies directly from our [Amazon Wish List](#) or read below for details on this year’s yard sale and your chance to make a purchase in support of our seniors.

At BLCI we are proud of our students and proud of the support we receive from the community. Our collective efforts provide a roadmap for our students to ensure they enroll in college and are successful during their time there. Thank you for making their dreams possible.

Sara Boquin

Sara Boquin, BLCI CEO

Your Support in Action

BLCI FRESHMAN UPDATE

CLASS OF 2023

Thank you - Your support not only helps BLCI students enroll in college, but ensures they have the skills and tools to be successful once there.



Denise, First Year
UC San Diego -
Sociology

"I really loved my first quarter and love my roommate; my first experience is really good, and I like being close to home but still having independence.

My greatest challenge was getting out of my dorm to meet people, setting good study habits and finding study spots because studying in high school and college is very different. I feel grateful that even though I have many worries, now as an adult in college, tuition isn't one that takes away my focus from my academics!"



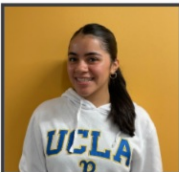
Valeria, First Year
SDSU - Child and
Family Development

"My first semester away was pretty good. There were some bumps in the road but overall, I'm enjoying college life. My greatest challenge was getting used to the workload and managing my time to complete my work. A success was that I didn't get too overwhelmed and was able to finish off my first semester with a GPA that I am happy with."



Alan, First Year
SDSU -
Computer Engineering

"My first semester in university felt more similar to high school than I imagined. All of my classes were in smaller form factor classrooms and since I commute to school, I was still going home after the end of each day. So far, I've had fun in university and am especially fond of the campus. I'm a bit of a glutton, so having a food court in school is amazing. Of course, I don't eat there every day, it's too expensive and there is always food at home. My greatest challenge so far was actually building a schedule that was consistent throughout in terms of time."



Diana, First Year
UCLA - Biochemistry
minoring in
Entrepreneurship

"My biggest challenge was fighting imposter syndrome. It was hard not to dwell on thoughts of, "I am not good enough or I am dumb whenever I would compare myself to other students, but realizing this is all part of the journey and that most likely everyone around me feels the same way helped me a lot. Altogether, I am proud of having immersed myself at UCLA so well. While I might've thought I was not doing enough I managed to form a great group of friends, get a paid internship, become involved with clubs such as Hermanas Unidas and the Latin X Welcome Committee, and become a mentee of a mentor from the OrgulloSO mentorship program.

I would like to take a moment to thank everyone from BLCI. It is so heartwarming to look around my dorm and be reminded of who I am and where I come from through all the gifts from BLCI and its donors. While I am underrepresented, I find myself rich in knowledge that I was able to learn only at BLCI. Little things like the value of applying for scholarships, seeking help, and taking advantage of all possible resources. Thank You for the continued support!"

Class of 2024
Scholarships

Scholarship Endowment
Fund

Make an Impact



Please Join Us!

opportunity for
Impact
ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

Wednesday, May 8th, 2024, 6-9 pm

New Location!



10996 Torreyana Rd. Suite 240, San Diego, CA 92121

Purchase Table or Tickets
Today!

Can't attend, but still want to make an impact? Donate
Today!

Support BLCI Seniors at The Annual Warm Dorm Yard Sale

Sale Date: Saturday, April 27th

Location: 1884 Sunset Blvd (Located in the alley)

Hours of Sale: 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

First year college students face high costs as they prepare to live away from home for the first time. For families already facing economic hardship, the additional cost is an added challenge. Without the correct supplies, students start the school year already being behind. Through the Warm Dorm program, our seniors can begin the year with everything they need to be successful.



Dear Warm Dorm Donors,

Hello my name is Jaaziel and I am a student from BLCI. I am honored to have received your warm dorm college gifts and I would like to say thank you for your generous gifts and donations for me. I never expected these gifts and when my family and I went to pick them up it put a huge smile on not only my face but on my entire family's faces. These gifts have motivated me even more and will be of great help when I'm in college.

As a kid growing up college has always been the goal for me and my family which is why they always pushed me to be better so I could pursue my dreams and get a higher education. Over the last couple of years this dream of going to college would only get closer and closer and now it's finally here. Thanks to the help of all of my teachers and mentors across the years I will be able to be the first in my family to attend a University. And thanks to all my college donors like you I will be able to have a better experience. From the backpack to the big sleeping pillow I am grateful for all these gifts, once again from me and my family. Thank you for making a difference in my life.

Sincerely,

Jaaziel Hernandez
BLCI Class of 2023

Purchase an Item for a Student's
Dorm

Follow us on Social Media!



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

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