



July 2024

CEO Update

We are just a few weeks away from seeing BLCI's most recent cohort of seniors fulfill their dream and start their first day of school as a college freshman. Our students attend a wide range of colleges and universities, but one thing they have in common is the determination to be the first member of their family to obtain a college degree. While BLCI excels at building the path to education, it is the students who put in the hard work and take advantage of the many opportunities to help prepare them for college and change the trajectory of their futures.



As first-generation college students, BLCI youth lack generational access to college readiness. Being “the first” means they can’t rely on familial support and prior experience to help them navigate the path to college. Without college preparedness programs like BLCI, low academic self-esteem and difficulty adjusting to college can manifest while enrolled, contributing to a lower rate of college completion than that for students who have at least one parent with a four-year degree (Stephens, Hamedani, & Destin, 2014). One of the most compelling outcomes of BLCI’s College and Career Readiness Program is the college completion rates. You may be aware that **low-income first-generation college students have the lowest expected college completion rate** – with just 21% of these students obtaining their degrees. Statewide, regardless of status the statistic is only slightly higher at 55%, yet **BLCI students have a college completion rate of 71%**. BLCI students exceed the average for *all* segments and more than *triple* the rate of their student counterparts who did not benefit from a program like BLCI. **Thank you for investing in and caring for our students.**

The first two years of college are the most critical for student success—if students can make it to their second year, they are more likely to complete their educational goals. One of the ways that BLCI promotes college persistence and completion is through our scholarship program. Removing the financial barrier to higher education is key to our

success and students like Valerie, Valeria, Joab, and Diana featured in today's newsletter can immerse themselves in their studies.

School is almost back in session, but there's still time to get your donation for the Class of 2025 scholarships matched today. [Learn more](#) about the Robert and Molly Schulze Scholarship Match with San Diego Foundation and help our efforts to promote equity in education and make dreams come true.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sara Boquin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sara Boquin, BLCI CEO

Scholarship Report BLCI Class of 2023

FRESHMAN UPDATE BLCI SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

While financial aid provides support, BLCI students rely on private scholarships to close the gap and reduce the amount of student debt they must incur to complete their education. Scholarship support reduces the burden of financing an education, allowing BLCI students to immerse themselves in their studies and the experience of being the first in their family to attend and graduate college.



**Valerie, First Year
UC Irvine - Undeclared**

"The BLCI scholarship was a big help with paying my college tuition/bills without any money coming out of my family's pocket. It made it possible for some money to be reimbursed back to me and I was able to visit my family in San Diego every 2 months or so. It also helped in covering expenses for classes like supplies, textbooks, school apps, art supplies, etc. It made me have less stress about money my first year of college which I am very appreciative of."



**Valeria, First Year
SDSU - Child and
Family Development**

"Being awarded this scholarship helped me focus on my school work without having financial worries. Additionally, receiving a scholarship kept me motivated. At times it was tough for me to want to continue with school. Still, I would regain some of my motivation when I remembered that I received my scholarships because people believed in my capability to persevere through the struggles."



**Joab, First Year
University of San Diego -
Architecture**

"Although I continued applying to scholarships, it was nice to know, despite not going to anymore workshops, I can still count with the support of BLCI.

I want to thank all the scholarship donors for the support that they've give me through the scholarships I've received. I'll continue to be grateful because I know that's it's through their donations that I have this opportunity."



**Diana, First Year
UCLA - Biochemistry
minoring in
Entrepreneurship**

"Being selected for this scholarship has equipped me with the confidence to believe that I do have what it takes to be seated at a table with scientists, chemists, and CEOs of a San Diego biotech company! I am motivated not only to continue to educate myself, but also to educate others on the value of learning. I plan to use my degree to prove that one's family background, financial status, or ethnicity does not define how far you get in life.

Please know that your investment in me goes beyond my college education. I am committed to continuing your work by being an agent of positive change bringing more Latinas to the STEM field. Thank you for believing in a Mexican-American, first-generation, Latina like me!"

Get your donation for the Class of 2025 scholarships matched today!

[Learn more](#) about the Robert and Molly Schulze Scholarship Match with San Diego Foundation

Scholarship Support

There's Still Time to Donate!

BACK-2-SCHOOL WITH BLCI



Back to school supplies cost an average of \$75-\$150 per student. Incoming college freshman face even higher costs as students prepare to live away from home for the first time and have the added expense of setting up a dorm room. For families already facing economic hardship, this is an added challenge and without the correct supplies, students start the school year already being behind.

Support our students during this important time of year. Donating is as easy as visiting the [BLCI Amazon Wish List](#)!

Freshman Dorm
Supplies

School
Supplies

Book Wish List

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