



Achievement Institute of Scientific Studies

Teaching College, Career and Life Readiness through STEM

# IMPACT REPORT 2020

## OUR MISSION:

To guide high achieving, economically disadvantaged high school students interested in pursuing a career in the STEM fields.

## OUR FOOTPRINT

**169**  
Graduated Scholars

**1,000+**  
University Acceptances

**100%**  
Attend College

**80%** Major  
in STEM Subjects

**65%** in  
STEM Careers



# 450

PEOPLE SERVED EACH YEAR

25 SCHOLARS

plus families, prospective scholars, and alumni

## DEMOGRAPHICS OF ALL SCHOLARS TO DATE

Female **58%**



Male **42%**

Hispanic **95%**

Asian/Pacific Islander **3%**

Caucasian **1%**

Black/African American **1%**

# 204



Hours Spent in Program Annually per Student

## COLLEGES ATTENDED BY ALUMNI





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## Partner Highlight

Edwards Lifesciences continues to serve as our largest ongoing partner. As a local medical technology company, Edwards is the perfect partner to help our scholars imagine their future STEM careers. In addition to acting as a sponsor of our annual fundraiser, alumni luncheon, and program materials, Edwards employees from the HOLA Employee Resource Group also serve as volunteers in our mentoring program and facilitators for Science Fridays, inspiring our scholars to work hard toward their goals for the future. Thank you, Edwards Lifesciences, for your partnership!



Edwards

## Alumni Who Give Back

The Achievement Institute is fortunate to have so many alumni return to give back to our scholars. Two great examples are Karla Ramirez and Lisette Martinez. After Karla completed our program in 2009 and obtained a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering, she started her own business with her husband Sean, Tera Engineering Co. Karla serves as a mentor and instructor to our scholars and has taken them on tours of her business to see STEM careers in action.



Lisette was part of the Achievement Institute Class of 2011. Since then, she obtained a bachelor's degree in Psychology, as well as a master's degree in Social Work. While she completed her education, Lisette worked as the lead instructor for our programs and helped to coordinate our Alumni Association. Lisette now works as a Family and Community Engagement Specialist with the Santa Ana Unified School District, where she supports many of the students who participate in our program.



Karla and Lisette both now serve on our Board of Directors. We are so grateful to have their valuable insight as alumni helping to guide the next generation of STEM leaders!

## Response to COVID-19

The pandemic has magnified the socioeconomic disparities our scholars face daily. Many of our scholars' parents have lost their jobs or reduced work hours, leading to food, housing, and technological insecurities.

This summer, we hired five alumni to serve as Advisors to our scholars and provide extra support. Advisors coached scholars through writing college essays and developing their educational business plans. The Advisors proved so beneficial to our scholars that we plan to incorporate this new feature into our annual program.

Laura (name changed) is one of our amazing Class of 2021 scholars who has faced tremendous challenges this year. Laura's father lost his job, and she had to go to work to help support her family. Laura lost access to her school's computer lab and struggled to keep up in school and in our program. Plus, her family contracted COVID-19.

Fortunately, Laura's family recovered. She obtained a Chromebook from her high school. With the support of her Advisor, she successfully completed the Educational Business Plan, which helps scholars navigate the college admission process. Laura now has a laptop of her own thanks to a generous donation from Edwards Lifesciences. We are so proud of Laura's resilience and perseverance through these many challenges! Laura has already received her first college acceptance with a scholarship to George Fox University. We look forward to working with Laura to help get her fully prepared for college and her future career.