

PRESS RELEASE

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DONORS AND PARTNERS GATHER TO CELEBRATE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

2018 Reality Check Conference Honors Public Housing and Section 8 Participants Pursuing Higher Education



Los Angeles, July 20, 2018 - The Los Angeles County Community Development Foundation (LACDF) awarded over \$24,000 in Housing Authority Resident (HAR) Scholarships to 26 public housing and Section 8 participants attending a four-year university, community

college, or vocational program. Awardees were recognized during the 2018 Reality Check Conference held at The California Endowment in Los Angeles.

The one-day conference, exclusively for participants of the Community Development Commission/Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles (CDC/HACoLA) pursuing higher education, focused on life-skills workshops, career panels, and educational resources. Scholarship recipients included top high school graduates and first-generation college students aspiring to succeed in their chosen careers. Several of the students are pursuing studies within the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) fields.

Christian Daly, Assistant Field Deputy for Los Angeles County's Fifth Supervisorial District served as Master of Ceremonies. Having experience as a Hollywood actor and graduating from Pepperdine University with honors with a Master of Public Policy, Mr. Daly was both entertaining and inspirational to the students.



“Each HAR scholarship recipient that is taking steps towards post-secondary education is that much closer to ending generational poverty for themselves and their families,” stated Monique King-Viehland, CDC/HACoLA Executive Director. “We are pleased to partner with the LACDF to help students of all ages pursue their education and explore their career paths.”

The opening keynote speaker Curglin Robertson, Educational Opportunity Center Assistant Director at California State University, Long Beach, explained in detail the steps to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Attendees were very attentive and asked many questions on how to seek financial help for college.

The afternoon keynote speaker, Jesus Perez, an engineer and 21-year veteran of Raytheon Space and Airborne Systems in El Segundo, shared his personal story. The son of Mexican immigrants, he was born and raised in San Fernando. He is passionate about organizing and hosting fundraising events to help support college bound students. Mr. Perez has raised over \$20,000 to fund scholarships for his alma mater San Fernando High School.

Throughout the day, attendees participated in workshops held by the University of California, Los Angeles, Pepperdine University, Alma Family Services, Los Angeles Music and Art School, and FedEx Corporation.

The LACDF is celebrating its fifth year offering the Reality Check Conference and Scholarship Awards Luncheon at The California Endowment. Since 1997, nearly \$324,000 in scholarships have been awarded by LACDF.

Scholarship funds are made possible through the generous donations of the California Community Foundation, Edison International, and the employees of the CDC/HACoLA. To learn more about the LACDF, please contact Executive Director, Shelly Thompson, at (626) 586-1899, or visit www.lacdf.org. All media may contact Elisa Vásquez, CDC/HACoLA Public Information Officer, at (626) 586-1762.

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