



THE CITY OF  
**SAN FERNANDO**

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## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Elena G. Chávez, City Clerk  
(818) 898-1204

DATE: May 15, 2019

### Ten Valley Students Receive Scholarships

San Fernando, CA – The Education Commission of the City of San Fernando proudly announces 10 recipients from its fourth annual scholarship program.

**Xavier Alexander Jimenez** of Academy of Scientific Exploration was awarded the Republic Services Cesar Chavez Scholarship (\$1,000) for his essay on recycling.

Five high school seniors and college students were awarded the Gabriel Fernandez Memorial Scholarship as follows:

\$500 scholarship recipients:

**Aaron Velasquez**, UC Berkeley

**Brianna Rios-Gutierrez**, UC Berkeley

**Jorge Mejia**, UC Davis

**Shelsie Escobar**, Academy for Scientific Exploration

**Viviana Alba**, UC Santa Cruz

The Gabriel Fernandez Memorial Scholarship honors the memory of the eight-year-old Palmdale boy whose life was taken tragically in 2013. Scholarships were funded with donations from the California Latino Water Coalition Foundation, Independent Cities Finance Authority, private donors, and the Community Investment Funds from Mayor Joel Fajardo and Vice Mayor Sylvia Ballin.

ADMINISTRATION  
DEPARTMENT

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CITY MANAGER  
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Four students were awarded the Elias Rodriguez Memorial Scholarship as follows:

\$500 scholarship recipients:

**Arlene Esquivel**, Granada Hills Charter High School

**Melissa Martinez**, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo

**Saidy Taracena**, Academy for Scientific Exploration

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Zoe Silva, Northridge Academy High School**

The Elias Rodriguez Memorial Scholarship honors the memory of, Elias Rodriguez Academy for Scientific Exploration student, who lost his life during the heavy rains of February 2017. Scholarships were funded with donations from California Latino Water Coalition Foundation, Independent Cities Finance Authority, and Elias' mother Pahola Mascorro.

Recipients will be honored at an awards ceremony on May 21, 2019.

The California Latino Water Coalition Foundation donated scholarship funds to encourage students to pursue higher education.

The Independent Cities Finance Authority's charitable program allows ICFA Board Members the opportunity to make a contribution to a charitable program of their choice that will assist in investing in their respective communities which will produce long-term benefits, including civic pride.

The City of San Fernando Education Commission supports the educational needs of families in the City of San Fernando and assists the City Council on youth education matters with the goal of increasing student achievement and safety.

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