



Bravo Medical Magnet H.S. (Formerly Lincoln Medical Magnet) Alumni Association

Bravo Alumni Association is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization. EIN: 81-2878226

Bravo Principal's Message

The Bravo community continues to set the pace for the Los Angeles Unified School District

Even under precarious circumstances!

It is important to reflect and process loss, grief, and stress, but it is essential to use that energy to continue moving forward. Bravo students and staff faced loss and grief as much as anyone else around the globe, but the difference was our ability to remain focused and to continue to thrive.



Bravo received national, state, and local recognitions for our ability to maintain our high levels of academic achievement, increase access to post-secondary programs, and strengthen our community partnerships.

This past year we opened a new partnership with the Los Angeles County USC General Hospital where over 100 of our students served as interns in the LAC USC County Hospital. We opened a new partnership with Pasadena's Cal Tech to include our students in their Summer Internship Program.

We earned recognition as a California Pivotal Practice School for our ability to pivot our energy and resources to serve our students and maintain high achievement. We were recognized as the Top

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California School for the highest submission rate of FAFSA/CADA applications. We were recognized once again by the World News Report as a Top School in America! It is heartwarming to receive accolades and recognition for our work, but it is fulfilling to see students and families reach their academic goals and aspirations at Bravo.

A parent with multi-generational students at Bravo mentioned to me, "I am officially leaving Bravo as a parent. My youngest is finally graduating. I am very proud and happy for all my children, 3, who successfully graduated from Bravo but I am sad that I will not be part of Bravo anymore. Thank you and the teachers because you gave my family one of the best gifts we could ever get as a family, a great education."

I strongly believe that the gift is one that has been built from day one of Bravo's opening back in 1990. I strongly believe that all who have

crossed the Bravo graduating stage have given our current and future students the gift of the best education in Los Angeles. On behalf of our past, current, and future students, thank you for your contribution and continued support to Bravo!

Dr. Luis M. López

Association Update

Happy New Year! I hope this year, 2023, you and your families will have good health, love, and peace!

It is with great excitement that I address the Bravo Alumni Association. We are possibly entering a much safer period than we have experienced in the past three years as the pandemic seems to be winding down, and that will allow us to meet in-person, hold small gatherings, plan for future reunions, and to move forward on much awaited projects in collaboration with Bravo Medical Magnet High School.

During the pandemic the Bravo Alumni Association Board managed to maintain contact and plan in a very limited manner through virtual meetings. With the help of alumni, including Ulisses Sanchez, Cynthia Mejia, Maricarmen Cardenas, Kito Robinson, Glendy Ramirez, Irving Pacheco, and Wing Lee, our scholarship fundraising campaign met our goals, and we raised enough funds to award 16 scholarships to members of the graduating Bravo

Class of 2022! Thank you to all the generous alumni who supported this effort! You are the best!

I want to thank the members of the executive board: Bob Spears, our Vice President; Rowena Vrabel, our Recording Secretary; and Su Dang our Treasurer for their unequivocal support and hard work. Your Alumni Association could not have survived without them.

Please take a look at the brief news items about some of your fellow alumni! Send us your stories! We want to know where you have been, what you have been doing since you graduated, and where we can get in touch with you! Lincoln/Bravo alumni are doing amazing things! They are playing incredible roles in all facets of community life. We are very proud of you! We are also excited to know that you are becoming the leaders we need!

Stay safe and healthy! Stay in touch, drop us a line! We would all love to hear from you!

Rosa Maria Hernández, Ed.D.
Interim President, BAA Board

Featured Alumni

Glendy Ramirez, Class of 1995, is teaching science at Bravo. She has taught there since 2001. She teaches Life Science and Career Technical Education. She has the overall coordinating and management responsibility for the day-to-day operation of the STAR (Science Technology and Research) and EHA (Engineering Academy of Health) biotechnology program at Bravo since 2012, and she is the primary liaison between USC laboratories, principal investigators and graduate student mentors for the STAR and EHA capstone class. Glendy is also a member of the Bravo Alumni Association Board and serves as the Liaison between the Bravo faculty and the Alumni Association.

Mike Fong, Class of 1994, has

been in public service in Los Angeles for many years. He has led teams in his various roles with the City of Los Angeles, working on issues such as housing access, civic engagement, youth employment, workforce development, and education. He served as a Trustee on the Los Angeles Community College Board, among other positions, and has devoted his career to making our city a great place to live. He was recently elected to the California Assembly, representing the 49th District, and he was re-elected in November. Mike is a member of the BAA Board and has supported the Scholarship Program.

Yancey Quinones, Class of 1993, has been an entrepreneur for several years. He owns the Antigua Coffee roasters in Cypress Park and a coffee roaster facility in Rancho Dominguez Hills. The pandemic forced him to shut a third shop in West Hollywood. He has been a strong supporter of Bravo Alumni Association events and is currently working with Ulisses Sanchez to raise funds for the Bravo baseball team. Their goal is \$3,000!

Aaron Jeffery, Class of 1994, is an administrator with the Los Angeles Unified School District. He started his career there as a teacher, later serving as Coordinator of the DOTS Program. He is currently a Director in the Special Education Unit and supervises both school site and off-site support personnel.

Erik Nasarenko, Class of 1988, is the District Attorney for Ventura County. He was elected twice to the Ventura City Council and served as Mayor of the city of Ventura. He was appointed to the position of District Attorney by a unanimous vote of the Ventura County Board of Supervisors on January 26, 2021, and he won the primary election in

June in a bid to keep his position.

Vartan Abgaryan, Class of 2000, is a well-known chef. He started his career at Red Pearl Kitchen in Los Angeles and then went on to The Arches in Newport Beach before relocating to Public Kitchen and Bar at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel. From there he went to Cliff's Edge for three years. He, then, moved to the 71 Above, the sky-high restaurant on the 71st floor of the US Bank Tower, followed by a short stay at Yours Truly in Venice, which closed. You can now find him at a new site in Beverly Hills, Tommy's, at the former Bouchon Restaurant.

Avigail Sanchez, Class of 1997, serves as Vice President and Director of Government Relations for the West Division and HNTB Corporation, bringing over 20 years of experience in facilitating leadership development programs and project coordination in the areas of government and community engagement and advocacy, multi-agency coordination, and community planning. Avigail has served in the public sector as council staff for the City of Los Angeles and is very adept at dealing with city, state, and federal agencies and functions. She has worked for three major global Architecture and Engineering firms specializing in the diversity of multibillion-dollar infrastructure projects.

Denise Carlos, Class of 1999, is the lead singer of the group "Las Cafeteras." She began showing how talented she was as a member of the Bravo Ballet Folklorico. She has performed in a variety of venues, including The Luckman Auditorium at Cal State Los Angeles, the Soraya at Cal State Northridge, and the Music Center Plaza. She has an MSW degree; she sings, dances, and acts and is a certified Zumba instructor

– an all-around artist on the move!

Cynthia Mejia, Class of 2011, serves on the Bravo Alumni Association Board of Directors. After graduating from Bravo, she attended Pasadena City College and, then, transferred to UC Riverside where she obtained a B.A. in Public Policy. Her interest is to address inequities in land use planning and housing, and how this relates to one's health outcomes and quality of life. Cynthia now works to increase the production of affordable housing as well as fostering healthier communities through land use planning.

Angela Sarafyan, Class of 2001, is an actress who has appeared as a guest-star in several television series including "Judging Amy" (1999) and "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" (1997). She has acted in the feature films "On the Doll" (2007), "Kabluey" (2007), "The Informers" (2008), "A Beautiful Life" (2008), "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn – Part 2" (2012), "A Good Old Fashioned Orgy" (2011) and "Lost and Found in America" (2012). In 2016 she starred as Clementine Pennyfeather in HBO's "Westworld."

Golnaz Agahi, D.S.W., L.C.W., M.P.H., Class of 1990, graduated from the Lincoln Medical Magnet Center in the same year Bravo opened its doors. Dr. Agahi has over 20 years of experience working in health and human services, both in the private and public sectors. Her area of administrative expertise is in program planning, management, implementation, and evaluation. Her clinical work, presentations, and publications address the following areas: suicide prevention and treatment, alcohol and drug prevention and treatment, intimate partner violence, co-occurring disorders, stress management, leadership development, and health outcome measures to improve

health indicators. Also, she has over a decade of higher education teaching experience at the University of Southern California and California State University, Fullerton, Schools of Social Work.

Katherine Hurst, M.D., Class of 1993, reached her life-long goal of becoming a medical doctor. For the past ten years she has practiced medicine in rural ERs in Iowa. She developed an idea for a light-based alarm clock, which she uses to wake up to drive to rural ERs and to serve communities with severe medical personnel shortages. "Light Awake" is the culmination of the science classes she took over the years, and the skill set of critical analysis and application of the scientific literature. She hopes to share this unique idea with Bravo students and alumni and would like to serve as a mentor to high school students to encourage them to pursue the field of science.

Kito Robinson, Class of 1992, serves on the Bravo Alumni Association Board of Directors. After graduating from Bravo, she obtained a B.A. in History at UC Berkeley. Following a few years of living in the Bay Area where she was a legal researcher, she applied to law school and attended Howard University School of Law in Washington, D.C. Upon graduating, she practiced law in Kansas City, Missouri, returning to Los Angeles in 2006 where she enjoyed practicing law and performing comedy on stage in theaters throughout L.A. She is currently practicing law in LA and enjoying time with family and friends.

Gabby Cantero Hogan, Class of 1987 has had a varied and interesting set of experiences after graduating from Bravo. She began her studies at California State University, Northridge. She interrupted her studies at CSUN to study Photography at Pasadena

City College. She also worked in professional labs that catered to entertainment studios and, then, at Paramount Pictures. Later, she returned to CSUN to complete her B.A. in Psychology and worked as an in-home Counselor for 3 years followed by being an Intake Coordinator for 3 years at Bienvenidos Family Services. After starting a family, she worked as a Case Worker at the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health. She, then, decided to pursue a Master's in Social Work, which she completed at CSUN, Class of 2018, with distinction. Gabby has been very supportive of the Bravo Alumni Association and the scholarship program.

Winnie Lee, Class of 1986, reported to the U.S. Army a month after graduating from the Lincoln Medical Magnet Center. She completed basic training at Ft. McClellan, Alabama and permanent duty station at West Point Academy, N.Y. She trained as a field medic but ended running her own Outpatient/Family Practice Clinic. After 3 years, she joined the California National Guard in Montebello as a field medic, where she remained 6 years. Her studies at Cal State University Los Angeles in pre-med with a goal of becoming a Pharmacy tech were placed on hold when she started a family. After working for 25 years as a Pharmacy Technician, 20 of these at VA Loma Linda, she currently works as a Cancer Registry Coordinator for VA Martinsburg, West Virginia. She lives in Colton and is a mother of two boys, 13 and 21.

Irving Pacheco, Class of 1995, obtained a B.A. in Political Science at San Diego State University and an MBA from the University of Redlands. He completed the USC Ross Program in Real Estate, and currently serves as a Sergeant in the U.S. Army Reserves. He has a daughter, enjoys hiking, soccer, and

history. He is on the Bravo Alumni Association Board of Directors and has been a strong supporter of the BAA Scholarship Program.

Maricarmen Cardenas, Class of 1988, graduated from the Lincoln Medical Magnet Center. Her love for history was inspired by Ms. Vrabel, and she pursued this field at UCLA. Maricarmen has been teaching sixth grade Math and Science at Palms Middle School in LAUSD for 25 years. She sponsors a Board Game Club and UCLA's Bruin Experiment. She has been married for 23 years to a fellow Bruin, Richard, and has two college boys, one at UCSD and one at UCLA. Maricarmen is a member of the Bravo Alumni Association Board of Directors, and a strong supporter of the BAA Scholarship Program as well as its various activities.



need for an "Outreach Campaign" to enlist a larger number of alumni was enthusiastically brought up. Renewed commitments by everyone present were made to the Alumni Scholarship Fundraising effort. We

wants to continue being a strong support for students and staff. Be a part of this journey!

Bravo Alumni Association Meets for Breakfast

A meeting for breakfast is not that unusual, unless we have been isolated, kept our distance, and only met virtually for over two years due to a pandemic!

And so, on November 5, 2022, the Bravo Alumni Association finally held an in-person meeting/gathering at "La Parrilla" in Boyle Heights. It was a wonderful reunion! A small

group of twelve alumni, Interim Board members, and former Bravo staff enjoyed a delicious breakfast, wonderful conversations, exchange of ideas and sharing of memories and experiences.

Plans were discussed over coffee: the possibility of a Bravo Alumni reunion at Bravo was proposed; the much-delayed plans for a Memorial Plaque honoring Bravo students and staff who have left us was once again revisited; and the

celebrated the ongoing Scholarship Program which has grown from 9 scholarships in 2018 to 16 in 2022!

As we embraced and bid farewell to fellow Bravo "family" members, the renewed priorities for 2023 were applauded: Alumni Outreach and Activities, a Bravo Alumni Reunion, Scholarship Fundraising, and development of a Bravo Mentorship Program.

It is our sincere wish that you will join us to in our effort to attain the priorities just mentioned. Bravo continues to serve its students well! The Bravo Alumni Association



2021 Scholarship Recipients

After reviewing all applications received from members of the Senior Class of 2021, the Scholarship Committee selected the following applicants as recipients of one of the Bravo Alumni Association Scholarships in June, 2021.

Lavanya Bhardwaj is enrolled at UC, Berkeley with plans to major in Molecular and Cellular Biology. She would like to become a cardiothoracic surgeon.

Alondra Chavez is enrolled at Cal State University, Long Beach, and is majoring in Criminology. She would like to become an immigration attorney.

Citlali Gaeta enrolled at Dartmouth College, majoring in Biology. She would like to become a pathologist.

Moncerrat Garcia is enrolled at Mount St. Mary's University, with plans to major in Psychology. She would like to pursue a marketing career.

Mark Velasco Gonzalez is enrolled at Dartmouth College, with plans to major in Political Science. He would like to pursue a career in law.

Sumaita B. Iqbal enrolled at UC, San Diego where she is majoring in Biology, with plans to pursue a career in Biotechnology.

Karen M. A. Ixmata is enrolled at Dartmouth College majoring in Political Science. She would like to become an attorney.

Emily Ng, enrolled at UCLA is planning to major in Neuroscience. She would like to pursue a career in the medical profession.

Alvin Pleitez is enrolled at USC majoring in Occupational Therapy. He would like to pursue a doctorate in Occupational Therapy.

Esmeralda Polanco is enrolled at Cal Poly Pomona majoring in Biotechnology. She would like to become a pediatrician, or a surgeon.

Giselle Robleto is enrolled at UC, San Diego majoring in Structural Engineering. She plans

to become a structural engineer.

Ailin Situ is enrolled at UC, San Diego with plans to major in International Business Studies, and hopes to pursue a career as an operations manager.

Kara Yokoyama is enrolled at Cal State, Los Angeles majoring in Biology. She would like to pursue a career in biomedical research.

The following students received memorial scholarships awarded by Dr. Rosa Maria Hernández in memory of her father, her mother and her sister.

The Jesus Hernández Memorial Scholarship

Natalia Hernández Amador, who enrolled at Los Angeles Trade Tech College wants to pursue a career in Automotive Engineering.

The Consuelo Gutierrez

Memorial Scholarship –

Carlos Garcia-Guerrero, who enrolled at the University of California, Santa Cruz wants to pursue a career in Biomolecular Engineering research.

The Magdalena Hernández Memorial Scholarship

Amy Valery Sosa, who enrolled at the University of California, Merced is beginning her studies leading up to a career in medicine.

attending UCLA, and would like to become a physician.

Cryseida Garcia is attending UC, Davis and majoring in Animal Science. She would like to become a veterinarian.

Mauricio Islas is attending East Los Angeles College and will major in Kinesiology. He wants to pursue a career in physical education.

Nare Karapetyan is enrolled at UCLA where she will major in Political Science. She would like to become a corporate lawyer.

Angela Lo is attending at East Los Angeles College majoring in Computer Science. Her goal is to transfer to UC San Diego and pursue a career as a software engineer.

Tania Hernández Mendez is attending Cal State University, Fullerton where she will major in Computer Science. She would like to pursue a career as a software developer.

Christell Pelico is attending USC. She would like to study Neuroscience and become a surgeon.

Mary Ramirez is attending Pomona College where she will major in Neuroscience. Her goal is to become a research scientist.

Vanessa Razones is attending Cal State University, Los Angeles and majoring in Finance and Law. Her career goal is in investment banking.

Sophia Ruiz is attending UCLA and majoring in Chemistry. She will pursue a career in medicine.

Scholarship Recipients June, 2022

Celeste Alonso is attending Cal State University, Los Angeles and major in Psychology. She would like to become a behavior analyst.

Ashley Alva is attending Mount St. Mary's University, majoring in Nursing. Her immediate goal is to become a nurse practitioner.

Zhenghui Chen is attending Stanford University. He is currently undecided about a major or specific career plans.

Maimuna Chowdhury is

Itzel Taisha Sanchez is attending Harvard College where she will major in Political Science. She would like to become a lobbyist.

Grace Tan is attending the University of Pennsylvania; will major in Neuroscience and pursue a career in medicine or research.

Brenda Zavaleta is attending East Los Angeles College where she is majoring in Biology. She would like to pursue a career as a pediatrician or an art therapist.



2022 Scholarship Recipients

**The Jesus Hernández
Memorial Scholarship**

Andrea Hernández, who is attending Cal Poly Pomona College to pursue a major in Environmental Management and Protection and become an environmentalist.

**The Consuelo Gutierrez
Memorial Scholarship**

Desiree Medina, who is attending UC, Riverside. She is pursuing a major in Business and a career as a marketing manager.

**The Magdalena Hernández
Memorial Scholarship**

Melanie Viramontes is attending UC, Santa Barbara where she will pursue a major in Economics and Accounting. She would like to become an economist or a computer scientist.

We hope you have enjoyed this issue of your newsletter. The goal of the Bravo Alumni Association is to publish a quarterly issue.

Here are three requests:

Please send us “your story,” the name you went by when you attended Lincoln/Bravo and the year you attended or graduated. We would like to know what you have done since you graduated. Let us know how you are doing, and what you are doing. We look forward to hearing from you! Please contact Rowena Vrabel, our Interim Recording Secretary, at: rlvrabel@yahoo.com

Please register as a Lincoln/ Bravo Alumna/Alumnus. Our Website is: www.bravohsalumni.org

Invite your fellow Lincoln/Bravo alumni to do the same. The Lincoln Medical Magnet Center and Bravo Medical Magnet High School have graduated 39 classes since 1984! Let’s show our strength in numbers!

Join us if you are available locally, as we resume our in-person meetings at Bravo High School. 1200 Cornwell St. Los Angeles, CA 90033

The meetings will be held on **Saturday mornings beginning at 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** We meet in the College Center. Refreshments will be served.

The schedule for 2023 is as follows:
 February 25, 2023
 March 18, 2023
 April 15, 2023
 May 20, 2023
 June 3, 2023
 June 10, 2023

We hope to have Zoom ready at Bravo so you can join us on-line ID 295 246 7757 Passcode 1300

Bravo Knights, be part of this incredible journey, as we continue to make history!



2022 Alumni Basketball Game