



# STEM Career Accelerator Program

Session 1 - March 18, 2026



# Ron Gonzales

**President & CEO**



# AGENDA

5:30 – 6:00 PM | Registration & Dinner

6:00 - 6:20 PM | Welcome & Introduction - Ron Gonzales

6:20 – 6:30 PM | Program Logistics & Expectations - Karla Mondragon

6:30 – 7:55 PM | Conocimiento Activity -

Dr. Madalena Barrera & Lilly Pinedo-Gangai

8:00 PM | Adjourn

# STEM Career Accelerator Funders



GILEAD

Foundation

# STEM Career Accelerator Partners



Santa Clara  
UNIVERSITY



# Icebreaker

## Getting to Know Each Other:

- Name
- Employer
  - Title
- Birthplace
- College Attended
  - Major
- Favorite Hobby



# Growing the Next Generation of STEM Leaders



# Mission

To improve the trajectory of Latino families in the Silicon Valley region by increasing the number of Latino professionals pursuing successful STEM careers.

# Vision

Our vision extends beyond education - it's about opening doors to high-demand, high-paying jobs in the STEM field to ensure Latinos are shaping the future of Silicon Valley.

# What is the problem?

**Latinos account for 26% of the Silicon Valley population.**

The Latino community will double in population in the next 30 years, and **yet, less than 3% of STEM workforce in Silicon Valley is Latino.**



# A Three-Phased Strategy



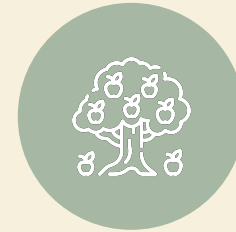
## Seed

A K-12 partnership model designed to spark an interest in STEM and teach parents how to support their child's journey.



## Cultivate

A direct-service model aimed to help college students succeed in STEM through mentorship and financial support.



## Harvest

Help post-graduates thrive in their careers, pursue additional degrees and give back to their communities.



Seed



### High School 9 - 12

- College Readiness (A-G Prep)
- College Application/Transition
- Science and Math support
- STEM Career Exposure



### Middle School 6-8

- Artificial Intelligence
- Coding and Computer Science
- Algebra 1 and Math support
- STEM Career Exposure



### Elementary School K-5

- Family Engagement Workshops
- College Preparation Info for Parents
- Digital and Financial literacy
- STEM Career Exposure

7000+  
Parents  
served

15  
Program  
Partners

4000+  
families  
per year

64  
school  
districts



# Cultivate

## Latinos in Technology Scholars Initiative

- **Financial support**
  - for up to three years for college juniors and seniors majoring in STEM
- **Internships**
- **Mentorship**

**595 scholars to date**

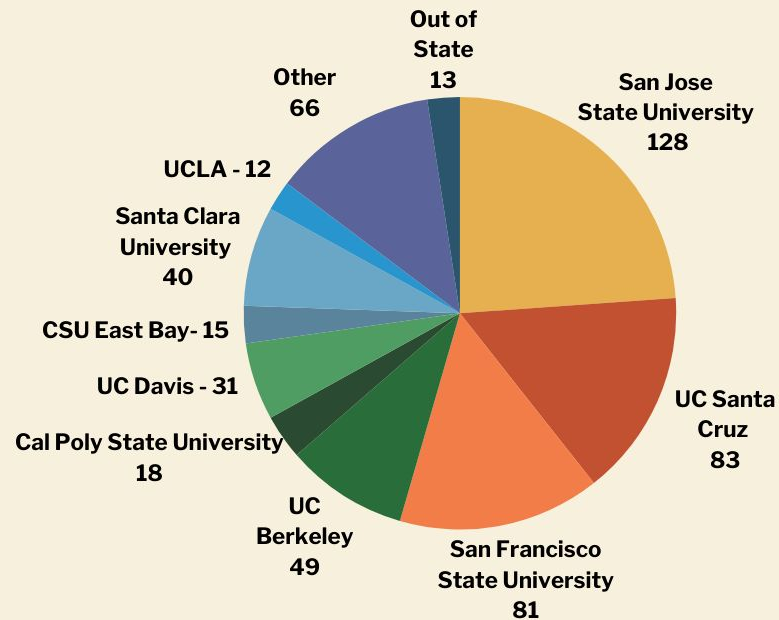
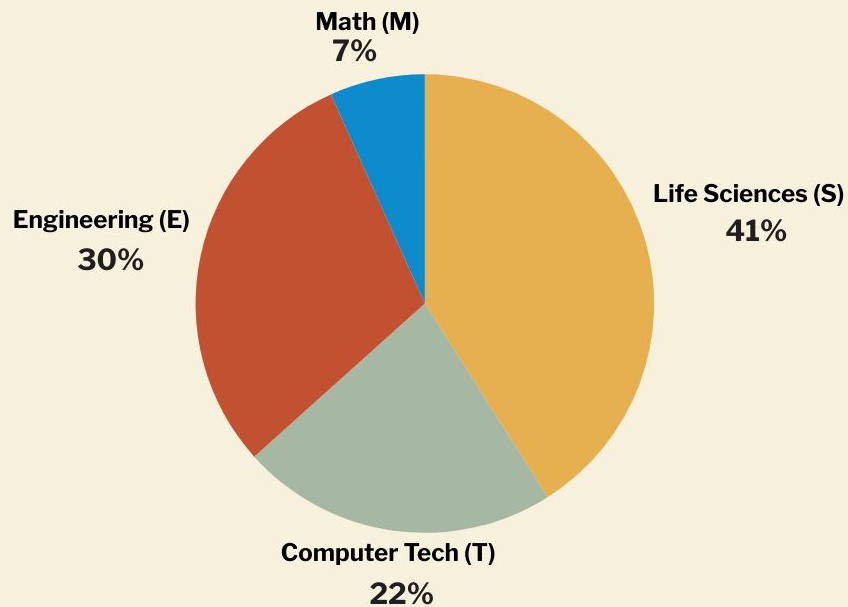
## Bridge to STEM

- Support community college students in transferring to a 4 year STEM program
- **Mentorship**
- **STEM Career Exposure**
- **Financial support**



# Scholars

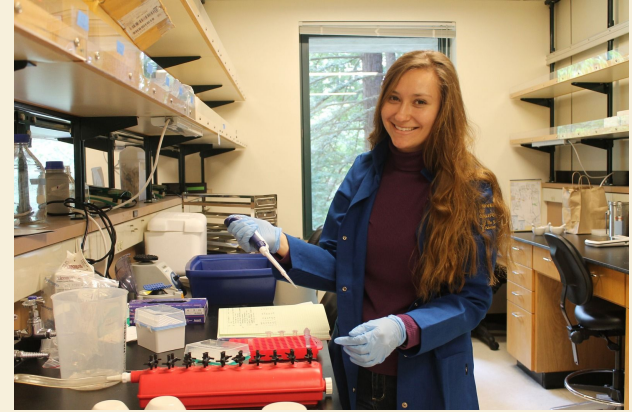
by declared majors & institutions





# Harvest

- **452 graduates**
- **Career Accelerator Program:** Post-college career & leadership development



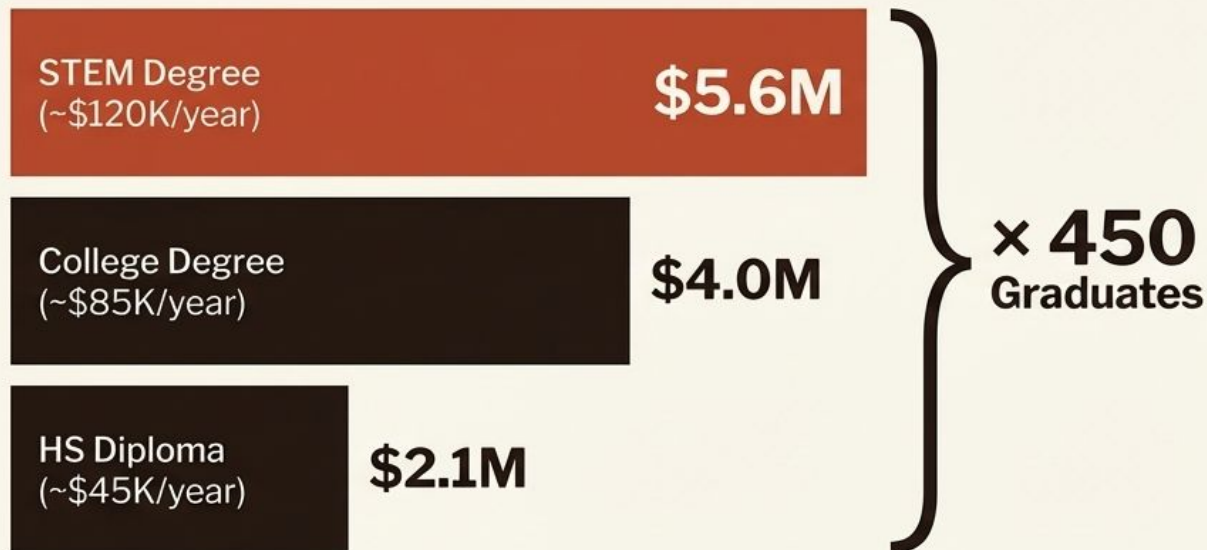
# Latinos in Technology Scholars Impact since 2016

- **630** Scholars have received **\$6.5 M** in scholarships
- **452** graduates to date
- **10%** of scholars have received a **master's** degree\*.
- **20** scholars are current PhD students, one scholar has achieved a **doctoral** degree\*.

\*National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) Data\*: A comprehensive source of national student-level college enrollment data. Provides us data on our LITSI scholars (name, enrollment status, graduation dates, degree types, degree levels, and majors), allowing us to analyze students' postsecondary enrollment and completion data. We have received data for 390 LITSI scholars out of 545 (71%).

# The Economic Premium of STEM in Silicon Valley

## Lifetime Earnings per Student



## Community Economic Infusion

**\$2.5  
BILLION**

in total aggregate lifetime earnings generated by the 450 scholars of the Latinos in Technology program.

# Karla Mondrago

**STEM Workforce Development  
Manager**



# PROGRAM PROTOCOLS

- Program Format | Hybrid!
  - In-Person Sessions at Santa Clara University & Applied Materials
  - Zoom Meetings
- Program Expectations
  - No more than 1 absence!
  - Please let us know when you will be absent.
  - Attendance will be taken at 5:30 p.m.
  - Must use your video on Zoom
  - **Mandatory** - Please fill out a short session evaluation after each class and the Pre and Post Program Survey at the start and end of the Program

# PROGRAM PROTOCOLS

## Career Accelerator Webpage

- Weekly assignments and session slides/material will be available to access. The link will be emailed to you this week.

## Weekly Newsletter

- Sent every Friday with weekly survey links, homework assignments, announcements, and updates.



<b>SESSION</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>FORMAT</b>
<b>Program Kickoff</b>	<b>Wed, March 18</b>	<b>In-Person   Santa Clara University</b>
<b>The Power of Networking, Mentorship, &amp; Building Professional Relationships</b>	<b>Wed, March 25</b>	<b>In-Person   Applied Materials</b>
<b>Personal Branding for STEM Professionals</b>	<b>Wed, April 1</b>	<b>In-Person   Santa Clara University</b>
Career Strategy in the Age of AI	Wed, April 8	Virtual
Compensation, Salary Negotiations & Understanding Job Offers	Wed, April 15	Virtual
Maximizing Employer Benefits & Financial Planning	Wed, April 22	Virtual
<b>Effective Presentation Skills</b>	<b>Wed, April 29</b>	<b>In-Person   Applied Materials</b>
<b>Leadership, Team Dynamics, and Influence in STEM Workplaces</b>	<b>Wed, May 6</b>	<b>In-Person   Applied Materials</b>
Graduate School Pathways for STEM Career Advancement	Wed, May 13	Virtual
<b>Program Graduation</b>	<b>Wed, May 20</b>	<b>In-Person   TBD</b>

# Meet the Speakers



## **Anthony Abadilla**

Partner & Private Wealth Advisor, Luminare Wealth Management & Insurance Services

Maximizing Employer Benefits & Financial Planning



## **Ashish Raina**

Compensation and HR Leader & Consultant  
Optimize Talent, LLC

Compensation, Salary Negotiations & Understanding Job Offers



## **Bernhard Ries**

Executive & Strategy Coach, PBJ People Consulting & Coaching

Career Strategy in the Age of AI



## **Brian Nguyen**

Product Operations Manager  
Levels.fyi

Compensation, Salary Negotiations & Understanding Job Offers



## **Guisselle Nuñez**

Personal Branding Coach, Speaker, & Author  
Sr. Associate VP, San Jose State University

Personal Branding



## **Jazmin Diaz**

Founder & CEO, Flourish  
Chief of Staff, Cloudflare

The Power of Networking, Mentorship, & Building Professional Relationships



## **Lilly Pinedo Gangai**

Inaugural Senior Director, Identity-Based Retention Centers, San Jose State University

Program Kickoff + Conocimiento



## **Lorenzo Cancel**

Career Coach & Vice President, Driven Academics  
Financial Analyst, Apple

Effective Presentation Skills & Post Program Career Coach



## **Lulu Curiel**

Founder, Ivy Advisory  
Executive Director, Harvard Business School Community Partners of Northern California

Graduate School Pathways for STEM Career Advancement



## **Magdalena Barrera, PhD**

Speaker, Author, Educator  
Vice Provost, Faculty Success, San Jose State University

Program Kickoff + Conocimiento

# Session 1



**Dr. Magdalena Barrera**

Senior Vice Provost and Accreditation Liaison Officer,  
SJSU



**Lilly Pinedo Gangai, M.A**

Senior Director, Identity-Based Retention Centers,  
SJSU

# Action Items:

- **Pre-Program Survey**

- Deadline: Wednesday, March 25th



Pre-Program Survey



Session 1 Survey

- **Session 1 Survey**

- Deadline: Monday, March 23rd

- **Session 2 | The Power of Networking, Mentorship, & Building Professional Relationships**

- 5:30pm - 8pm, In-person at **Applied Materials** (Bldg 1, 3050 Bowers Ave, Santa Clara, CA 95054 (Room AG118))

# Stay Connected!

