

César E. Chávez Leadership Conference Scholarship Handbook

Revised January 2012



The César E. Chávez Leadership Conference, Inc.
Executive Board
P.O. BOX 17466 Salem, OR 97305
board@cecleadershipconference.org
<http://ceclc.org>

2012 Scholarship Committee

Gerardo Ochoa

Mercedes Warner

Veronica Bañuelos

Cecilia Boscole

José Torres

Joseph Callahan

Brad Doyel

Armando Gonzalez

Maggie Vázquez

Liza Rodriguez

Tina Garcia

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Section 1: CECLC Overview

¡Bienvenidos!

Today, you have the responsibility of selecting our future leaders, young adults eager to pursue higher education. As a volunteer you are helping to realize CECLC's mission, which began more than two decades ago.

CECLC's Mission

To instill in our Latino(a) youth the value of education, which nurtures mind, body, and spirit in order to develop a social consciousness that empowers them as leaders for social justice and civic responsibility in the greater community.

The main objectives of the CECLC are to:

- Develop leadership skills
- Motivate students to complete and continue their education
- Strengthen self-confidence
- Create opportunities for Oregon's Latino students to build relationships and networks
- Be respectful and inclusive of all people

As a volunteer, you represent the Cesar E. Chavez Latino Student Leadership Conference (CECLC, Inc). This introduction will help you become familiar not only with the history of the conference, but equally important with the scholarship awarding guidelines.

Your work with the selection process will make a difference not only in the life of a young Latino(a), but also in our community and for that, **¡Gracias!**





Background on nonprofit membership organizations

Background on 501(c)(3) nonprofit membership organizations.

The 501 (c)(3) exemptions apply to corporations, and any community chest, fund, cooperation association or foundation, organized and operated exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific or educational purposes among others. These bodies are often referred to in shorthand form as “Friends of” organizations. There are two exempt classifications of the type 501(c)(3). The first one is a public charity, identified by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) as “not a private foundation,” normally receives a substantial part of its income, directly or indirectly, from the general public or from the government. The public support must be fairly broad, but not limited to a few individuals or families. The second one is known as a private foundation, sometimes called a non-operating foundation, receives most of its income from investments and endowments. This income is used to make grants to other organizations, rather than being dispersed directly for charitable activities. Private foundations are defined in the internal Revenue Code under section 509(a) as 501 (c)(3) organizations, which do not qualify as public charities.

Most organizations acquire 501(c)(3) tax exemption by filing IRS Form 1023. The form must be accompanied by a \$850 filing fee if the yearly gross receipts for the organization are expected to average \$10,000 or more. Section 501(c)(3) organizations are subject to limits or absolute prohibitions on engaging in political activities.

CECLC, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit membership organization. The Cesar E. Chavez Leadership Conference was founded in 1990, and it is now the largest Latino student leadership conference in the Pacific Northwest.

¿Sabías qué?...

- 22 years ago the first CECLC almost didn't happen. A day before the conference, a snow storm hit the Portland Metro Area, resulting in the closing of school and cancelation of bus transportation. 125 determined students made their way to the conference site and began a tradition that continues today.
- Today, the CECLC is the largest high school student event for Latino students in Oregon. 65 high schools from Northwest Oregon attend the conference. In 2011 roughly 1,500 students, presenters, exhibitors, school staff, volunteers, and invited guest made the conference possible.
- At least 20,000 high school students have been a part of this annual event.
- The CECLC also sponsors an annual art, essay, and poetry contest. With a \$200 1st prize award, students are encouraged and may enter each contest with one art entry.
- Some institutions of higher education will match dollar for dollar each recipients' scholarship or at the institution's discretion.



Section 4 Success Story

Where is she now???

Hilda Escalera was awarded the César E. Chávez Leadership Scholarship in 2007.

She was given a chance and this is what she has been able to accomplish ever since.

Mis raíces incluyen los ingredientes de tortillas con frijoles, y arroz con tomate. Vengo del ardiente sol, que me pegaba afuera en el campo, en las piscas de las fresas y moras. Vengo de limpiar los pisos de hoteles mientras escuchaba música ranchera. Vengo de la frialdad de la pobreza.

Me crié en Hillsboro, Oregon, la mayor de mi familia de ocho. Soy de primera generación, Latina. Me llamo Hilda Escalera González y soy la primera en mi familia, en asistir a la universidad. Estudié en la institución privada de las humanidades, Linfield College en Oregon. Me especialicé en comunicaciones interculturales y español. Hoy en día trabajo para Linfield College bajo el programa que promueve justicia social, AmeriCorps, como la Coordinadora de Mentores. Estoy desarrollando un programa en donde ayudo a entrenar alumnos universitarios de Linfield a ser mentores para los jóvenes que confrontan barreras socioeconómicas, con la meta de motivar aspiraciones educativas.

Me di cuenta que la mejor arma contra el ciclo de pobreza, es seguir con mis estudios. Quise involucrarme aún más en mi comunidad, especialmente en la comunidad Hispánica. Este levantamiento de conciencia primero surgió, para mí, el día que asistí a una conferencia de César Chávez. Nunca había visto tanta gente, mi gente Latina, en un solo lugar. Ese día llegué a conocer a los números de nuestro poder latino, mil estudiantes que comparten mis raíces. Así que las masas cantando juntos "Si Se Puede" me inspiraron a continuar con mi educación formal.

Durante esa conferencia, aprendí un poco más sobre César Chávez. Las siguientes palabras dejaron huellas en mi corazón:

We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community... Our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others, for their sakes and for our own.

Me involucré más que nunca en mi escuela, Liberty. Fui la capitana del equipo Liberty High Fútbol Multicultural, participé en servicio comunitario, fui una líder para programas como STARS, fui integrante de Project Plus, OOLI, y del gobierno estudiantil. Además tome clases avanzadas. Me esforcé bastante en la prepa con los fines de ayudar a nuestra comunidad.

En el ambiente universitario, nunca me olvidé de nuestra comunidad. Participé en varias actividades que incluyeron ser tutora de Inglés y Español, Avizora Residencial, servicio comunitario, una pasantía con Casa de Oregon, pasantía con Programas Multiculturales de Linfield, y estudié en el Ecuador y trabajé con Hábitat para Las Humanidades en Guatemala. Sin embargo, lo más importante para mí es que ayudé a fundar un programa que ahora es conocido como LCLA, Linfield College Latinos Adelante. En ese entonces solo éramos 4 Latinos, hoy en día somos 42. La meta de este programa es ser mentores para los estudiantes Latinos del primer año, para guiarlos durante sus carreras universitarias.

I am honored and privileged to be a scholarship recipient of the César Chávez Award; it is truly a blessing, as I personally know that every cent counts. The Cesar Chavez conference began for me, a domino effect.

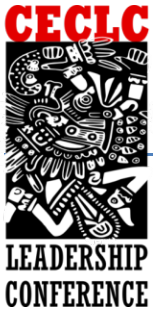
While I am in the first in my family, I do not want to be the only one to be on this college path.

I have dreams and goals that I want to achieve, as I hope to continue with graduate school someday soon. Courtesy of the César Chávez Award, I can more easily accomplish these ambitions.

Finalmente mi mensaje para los jóvenes que actualmente están involucrados en la conferencia es READ/LEARN. Aprendan a ser ciudadanos informados de este mundo. No nos quedemos atrás, hay que demostrar nuestra inteligencia, nuestra educación. De esa manera vamos a poder respetarnos mejor uno al otro. Alguien una vez dijo que cada individuo puedes aprender cosas fuera del salón de clases. ¡Pues claro! Pero, lo que uno aprende fuera del salón enriquece aún más con las lecciones dentro de ese mismo salón.

Once again on behalf of the César E. Chávez Leadership Conference

¡GRACIAS!



2011 Leadership Conference Committee

Members of the CECLC board:

President - David Martinez, Portland Community College
Vice President - Ramiro Flores, Willamette University
Secretary - Cecilia Boscole, Beaverton School District
Representative At Large- Anna Hernández-Hunter, Western Oregon University
Treasurer - Maria CasillasPerez, Student

Members of the CECLC committee:

Armando González, Gresham School District
Brad Doyle, Clackamas ESD
Jose Torres, Forest Grove School District
Ernestina García, Willamette ESD
José Romero César Chávez Activist & Retired Educator
Kathy Romero, César Chávez Activist & Retired Educator
José Romero, CECLC Co-Founder and Retired Educator
Hector H. Hernández, Art & Culture Service Portland
Liza Rodríguez-McNicholas, Salem/Keizer School District
Margarita Vasquez, Woodburn School District
Oscar Montemayor, Oregon State University
Paola Bar, Hillsboro School District
Sonny Montes, CECLC Co-Founder and Retired Educator
Maria Elena Alvarado, Portland Public Schools
SeferinaDeLeon-Dale, Hillsboro School District
PerlaPinedo, Portland State University
Angel Dorantes, University of Oregon
Gerardo Ochoa Linfield College – Portland Campus
Veronica Bañuelos, Portland Public Schools
Norma Sanchez, Western Oregon University
Emilio Hernandez, University of Oregon
Mercedes Warner, Hillsboro School District



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Section 2: Scholarship Overview

"Students must have initiative; they should not be mere imitators. They must learn to think and act for themselves - and be free"
César E. Chávez

The César E. Chávez Leadership Scholarship (CECLS) was developed to encourage and provide eligible Oregon Latino Student with the opportunity to further their academic and technical potential as they prepare to become future community leaders, leaders who are capable of shaping not only their own future, but also the future of our communities. Scholarship awards are made possible by contribution from individuals, businesses, organizations, student registrations, and associations both public and private. The César Chávez Leadership Conference scholarship review committee will make decisions on scholarship quantity and award amounts on a funds available basis. Where applicable, partner colleges of higher education will match each recipient's scholarship dollar for dollar OR at the institution's discretion.

The CECLC Scholarship Program was created in 1991. Over the years of its existence, over \$480,000 in scholarships has been awarded to nearly 500 deserving Oregon Latino students. Students are selected on the basis of their academic achievement, community involvement, and participation in the César E. Chávez Leadership Conference. The scholarship Program is a major highlight of the annual student conference. At least one student from every CECLC participant school or district on the planning committee receives a \$1,000 non-renewable scholarship.

¿Porque?...

The future of the country

As the article "Today's young Latinos are nation's future" explains, Latinos today have increasingly become the engine of the demographic future of the United States. The 2010 census enumerated more than 50 million Latinos. Much like the post-WWII baby boomer generation (born from 1946 to 1964), Latinos will have a significant impact on all the nation's institutions.

A just-released study by the Pew Hispanic Research Center reported that in the 2011 Latinos were primarily responsible for college enrollment increases among persons 18 to 24 years of age. Between 2009 and 2010, 349,000 more Latino students were on college campuses compared to a decline of 320,000 white students. Latinos now represent the nation's largest minority group of college students with an enrollment of 1.8 million. Latinos will account for an expanding share of college students in the coming decades.



CECLC and WOU

In 2011 and for the fifth consecutive year, Western Oregon University was awarded a \$25,000 grant from ECMC Foundation to continue to host the César E. Chávez Leadership conference on the WOU campus. The conference is the largest gathering of Latino high school leaders in the Pacific Northwest serving over 1,300 Latino students from nearly seventy high schools.

Western Oregon University's commitment to host the conference is consistent with other access and student success initiatives such as the Western Tuition Promise, which provides new undergraduate students a four-year guarantee of no tuition increases. Nearly 20 percent of WOU's record-setting freshmen class was comprised of students of color and over the past four years WOU has increased the number of Latino students on campus by over 65 percent.

"Effectively serving and educating Latino students is a core part of Western Oregon University's mission and daily work. Hosting the César E. Chávez Leadership Institute is important to the community and the university and is another way for us to support outstanding students and their families," said Associate Provost David McDonald. "We deeply appreciate ECMC Foundation's partnership and their continued support of students and Oregon postsecondary education."

During the conference, the ECMC Foundation's financial support covers the cost of lunch for the student attendees, presenters, and guest and defray portions of other program expenses.

"Perhaps we can bring the day when children will learn from their earliest days that being fully man and fully woman means to give one's life to the liberation of the brother who suffers. It is up to each one of us. It won't happen unless we decide to use our lives to show the way."

César E. Chávez.





Section 3: Scholarship Selection

CECLC SCHOLARSHIP TIMELINE 2012/2013:

- **December 5:** Rollout Scholarship Application
 - Available online and in paper form.
- **February 3rd:** Deadline to submit CECLC application.
- **February 7th:** Scholarship Chair sends applications to review committee
- **February 7th – 23rd:** Scholarship committee scores applications.
- **February 24th:** Scholarship committee meets to select Scholarship Winners
 - The Meeting will be from 10:30 to 12:30 prior to the monthly CECLC meeting.
 - All students are notified by mail.
 - Scholarship winners will receive an acceptance form, a Bio form, and a Save the Date Card for the scholarship banquet.
- **March 9th:** Selected Students are publically recognized at the conference:
 - Deadline to Submit Acceptance and Bio Form
- **TBD:** Scholarship award banquet
- **August 1st:** Verification of Enrolment form Sent to Students
- **September 1st:** Verification of Enrolment due from Student
- **September 7th:** Scholarship checks mailed to schools
 - Scholarship Chair will provide Treasurer copy of Verification of Enrolment Form



Scholarship Eligibility Criteria:

- Applicant must be of Latino ancestry
- Preference for seniors from high schools who attended the César E. Chávez Leadership Conference.
- Applicant must have a grade point average (GPA) reflecting above-average academic achievement.
- Consideration will be afforded to students who have demonstrated a strong commitment to the spirit, work and legacy of César E. Chávez.
- Applicant must enroll at least half time as a student at a two or four year public or private, accredited post-secondary institution in the United States.

These criteria were developed in order to ensure a fair and transparent application process.

Scholarship Recipient Expectations:

- Selected students and their parent/guardian must sign the CECLC Scholarship acceptance Form.
- Students must attend the annual Scholarship Award Banquet.
- Student must submit Proof of Enrollment Form prior to the stated deadline.
- Student must submit a biographical overview to the Scholarship Chair.
- Student must be enrolled at least half time (6 credits) in the Fall and/or Winter terms.

Guidelines for Institutions of Higher Education:

- Scholarship funds will be sent directly to the college/university Office of Financial Aid. The Scholarship funds will be credited to the student's account.
- Colleges/Universities will disburse scholarship funds on a quarterly or semester basis. Unused funds will be returned to CECLC Scholarship Chair and routed to the CECLC Treasurer.
- Colleges/Universities will be informed that the CECLC scholarships are meant to be last dollar financial support for the student and should not replace previously awarded grants and scholarships.
- In the event the scholarship exceeds the student's Cost of Attendance (COA), non-need loans should be replaced first and then proceed to need-based loans with the consent of the student.



Role of the Selection Committee:

The selection process is conducted by a committee that is made up of volunteers from each region. It is the committee's responsibility to ensure that the original intent of the donor and that of the CECLC Scholarship is honored, as it is spelled out in the pages of this handbook.

Only students who apply and submit all necessary documents can be considered by the selection committee.

- The selection committee will be comprised of at least eleven people who will score the applicants utilizing a scoring matrix agreed upon by the César E. Chávez Leadership Conference planning committee. At least one student from each region will be selected as a scholarship recipient. ***(A sample of the scoring matrix that will be used by the selection committee can be found on page 12.***
- Upon selecting recipients, all applicants will be mailed and emailed a status letter.
- Three alternate students will be selected and ranked in priority order. The alternate list will be drawn upon in the event that selected students do not meet the requirements for receiving scholarship funds
- Selected students will be given 3 weeks from the date they are informed they were selected to return the Acceptance and Bio Form. Failure to return the form in a timely manner will result in the student forfeiting their scholarship. In the event that a student forfeits their scholarship, the first student on the alternate list will be notified and will be given 3 weeks to return the Acceptance and Bio Form.
- Scholarship funds will be sent directly to the college's financial aid office and credited to the students' account. Schools will be explicitly instructed that the scholarship is meant to be last dollar financial support to the student and should not replace grants or other scholarships. In the event that the scholarship exceeds the students' Cost of Attendance (COA), non-need loans should be replace first, and then proceed to need-based loans with the consent of the student.
- The selection committee will have authority to make decisions on a case by case basis, by reaching a quorum. In the event that quorum is not reached, the issue will be brought up to the César E. Chávez Leadership Conference planning committee for a final vote.



Areas that you should consider when reviewing the applications:

When evaluating applicants you should think long term:

- What are the applicant's goals?
- Where is the applicant now and where does the applicant want to be in three years? Five years?
- How can this scholarship change the applicant's future?

Does the candidate demonstrate?

- Strong commitment to the spirit, work, and legacy of César E. Chávez
- Strong academic skills
- Community service
- Desire to succeed

Be impartial and fair

- The integrity of the selection committee is at stake
- Individual decisions will affect recipients, non-recipients, families, colleges, and communities

The following table contains statistics of 2011 applicants, it demonstrates that selected Applicants averaged a 3.41GPA.

2011-2012 CECLC/WOU Scholarship analysis

	No. of Applicants	No. of Winners	Average GPA of Applicants
Multnomah	4	1	3.66
Portland	4	3	3.63
Woodburn	4	2	3.38
Hillsboro	5	2	3.61
Beaverton	11	3	2.94
Clackamas	5	1	3.20
Forest Grove	4	2	3.53
Salem/Keiser	35	12	3.18
Willamette/Yamhill	17	4	3.47
Total	89	30	3.30
Males	27	5 (18%)	3.03
Females	62	25 (40%)	3.41

Average GPA for Winners 3.41



2012 – 2013 Scholarship Scoring Guide

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Community Service/César E. Chávez Vision

Maximum of 3 points

The Applicant shows an understanding of the vision and mission of César Chávez and is witnessed in the quality of their community service. Examples of Community Service include but are not limited to: volunteering at a local hospital, Red Cross, or clinic; working with community projects, Teen Court, neighborhood cleanups, and youth groups; coaching youth teams, mentoring, tutoring, and reading to younger children.

0 points-Did not meet expectation 1 point- Fair 2 points- Good 3 points- Excellent

Writing Skills

Maximum of 3 points

*The writing skills within the essay questions must show **relevance** (Did the applicant answer the question?); **analytical skills** (Does the writing show evidence of critical thinking skills?); and **strong writing/grammar skills** (Is there proper sentence construction, grammar, and spelling?)*

0 points -Did not meet expectation 1 point- Fair 2 points- Good 3 points- Excellent

Leadership

Maximum of 4 points

The applicant must demonstrate a potential for leadership skills in their schools or within their family/life (i.e. student demonstrates initiative, sound judgment, responsibility, inter-personal/team-work skills, motivation to achieve, flexibility, is a role-model, etc.). Also, the applicant has skills and/or has made contributions that stand out (i.e. initiated a program, community service experience, etc.).

0 points -Did not meet expectation 1 point- Poor 2 points- Fair 3 points- Good 4 points- Excellent

Recommendation Letters

Maximum of 3 points

The recommender must offer different and objective perspectives about the applicant in various roles (The recommender may be a teacher, community leader, or a work supervisor). After reading the recommender's remarks you have gained insights that convinced you this applicant is a very strong candidate for the CECLC Scholarship.

0 points -Did not meet expectation 1 points- Fair 2 points- Good 3 points- Excellent

Reviewer Discretion

Maximum of 3 points

The reviewer is aware of a unique situation impacting the ability of the student to attend college, overcome hardships, or has worked particularly hard to reach his/her college goals. Examples include but are not limited to: Student is a single parent, student was raised by a single parent, student has gone above and beyond in taking leadership in his/her community, student's parent(s) is/are unemployed, student's family has high medical expenses.

Gracias to our 2012 Sponsors

ECMC Foundation | Western Oregon University | Oregon Ind. Colleges Foundation Healthy Kids | Maps Credit Union | Salem Health | Chicanos of Oregon Golf Assoc. | Oregon Association for Comprehensive Education

