

Xochitl Rodriguez

College Bound opportunities

Good evening everyone,

I am Xochitl Rodriguez and I would like to thank you for supporting CBO financially so that students like me can receive superb preparation for the next phase of my life. For first generation college students, preparing for college is not very easy. My parents sacrificed the separation from their family to begin their own in a new country with new opportunities, they want to provide us with a better and stronger education. We believe that through education, we can achieve that dream. College Bound Opportunities has been helping me prepare for ACT and SAT testing. Throughout my time in CBO I was able to meet many other students from various schools. Before school started CBO had all the new scholars be in a retreat together. During this retreat we did various trust exercises and in this way I was able to make new friendships with other scholars. CBO also helps scholars with college applications, the hardest thing about being first generation college students would be not having someone to guide you through the process of college applications. CBO is sure to help with that. They also give each scholar a mentor, to be thought of as another person that we can talk to for whatever it is. CBO has all the support that a first generation student needs to fulfil their dreams and go to college.

Another program that I am apart of is Working Together. Working Together has played a big role in my life. I practically grew up in the program. I was part of the first generation and to this day I still return to volunteer. I watched it branch out. Dancer to dancer, fighter to fighter, Baby and me, Giant futures (football), Guitarist to guitarist, Giant splash and many more. When I started there was only dancer to dancer and Giant splash. I am grateful for being able to be part of this program. I am currently a swimmer and water polo player for Highland Park High School. Thanks to Giant Splash I was introduced to swimming. Giant splash was where I first started to learn how to swim. After two years in the program I was offered an amazing opportunity of joining the Highland Park Aquatics Club by Dr. Koulentes. It's thanks to the community support that I was able to participate in so many activities and able to start my journey as a student athlete. As I got older and became more involved in swimming and water polo I realized that I wanted to give back to the program that helped shape me when I was young. I have been helping teach in Giant splash since I was in eighth grade. Although sometimes my swimming or water polo practices overlap, when this happens I attend my practice and then I rush over to Working Together. When I was little I would see TV shows that had dancers and I would always say how I wanted to dance. When I heard that my sister was going to be able to dance I convinced my parents to let me join too. Its thanks to the community that I was able to and now I'm dancing at Center Stage Dance Academy. It helped me achieve my dream. I believe that this program will help many children achieve their goals and set them on a path of success. I would like to give thanks to all of you. It's for this program that I am who I am today. Thank you.