



2014 ALearn Achievement Award Winners

Alejandro Favela, Teaching Assistant Achievement Award

Alex has been an ALearn Teaching Assistant for 3 years and according to his teacher, Nancy Vongchantha, who nominated him, "Alex built a strong rapport with the students by making personal connections with the students with similar family background and athletics (especially soccer). He also volunteered to translate for the Spanish-speaking parents during College Inspiration Night. His loyalty and pure enjoyment of the program brings him back each time." He believes in the mission of the program, and he genuinely believes that this will help the students on the path to college. Alex is currently pursuing a double major in Spanish and Education at UC Irvine, and his goal is to teach middle school math. He is a graduate of Willow Glen High School.

Ashley Juarez-Renteria, Catalyst Student Achievement Award

Ashley's teacher, Jared Darby, who received the Catalyst achievement award for 2013, nominated her. She was recognized from a pool of nearly 500 students because she is "very positive and excited to learn. She is very intelligent and hardworking and always looks to help her partners understand. All of the students around her are motivated by her wonderful personality and outlook on life." Ashley received an A in her accelerated Geometry summer class, completed all 18 lessons, and showed great improvement. She is a student at Mountain View High School.

Joana Jimenez, MAP/MAP+ Student Achievement Award

From nearly a pool of 900 students at 15 schools, Joana's teacher, Michelle Quilantang, nominated her for her demonstrated perseverance, leadership qualities and academic achievement. She shared, "Joana always came to class ready to learn. She showed her work for each and every problem and acted as a role model for other students. When others had issues, she helped them understand the work better. She really took full advantage of all that the program had to offer and improved not only academically, but socially and in achieving her goals." Joana made huge improvements during the class. She attended regularly and completed 99 Khan Academy exercises, well above the class average. She is a student at Union Middle School in San Jose.

Patrice Milillo, Teacher Achievement Award

This was Patrick's third year as an ALearn teacher and was nominated by both a fellow teacher and an ALearn staff member. According to one of his nominators, "Patrick is creative, innovative, and dedicated. He builds excellent rapport with the students, by presenting the day's lesson within the framework of what children that age are interested in. He has good relationships with parents and even recruited other teachers to join the ALearn program this summer." Patrick has been a teacher for 5 1/2 years at Orchard School in San Jose and now plans to travel the world promoting how the arts impact education, community, and empowerment. Please go to <http://www.artispower.org/> to track his progress as he starts his journey in January 2015.