

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oxnard, California: April 12, 2018

Contact: Arcenio J. López
Mixteco/Indigena Community Organizing Project
Telephone: (805) 822-2418
Website: www.mixteco.org
Email: arcenio.lopez@mixteco.org



Tequio Scholarship Program Launches its Fifth Year!

The Tequio Scholarship Committee of the Mixteco/Indigena Community Organizing Project (MICOP) are proud to announce the release of their college scholarship application, supporting indigenous immigrant youth. In 2017, we awarded a record \$18,000 to over 21 indigenous youth in Ventura County with financial support for college.

Scholarship funds raised by individual donors will be supplemented by funds raise from MICOP's annual "Tequio Rising" event, as well as funding from Edison International to support indigenous students pursuing careers in the "STEM" fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

There are approximately 20,000 indigenous Mexicans in Ventura County, mostly Mixtecs from the states of Oaxaca and Guerrero. High school age indigenous youth face tremendous barriers to academic success, including implicit bias in education. Most of their parents are employed in the berry row crop industry, earning an average household income of \$15,000 to \$20,000 per year. Many families migrate for many months during the academic year. Parents often do not speak Spanish or English and have limited literacy skills, meaning that they are often disconnected from their children's education. Further, farmworker youth often encounter pressure to drop out of school to earn money to support their families.

MICOP began the Tequio Scholarship Fund in 2012 to inspire and encourage academic success in the indigenous community. The fund will provide individual grants to college students from Ventura County who are of indigenous Mexican roots from the states of Oaxaca and Guerrero. Grants are distributed annually to applicants selected by the Tequio Scholarship Committee. Previous Tequio Scholarship recipients attend a wide range of higher education institutions, including: UC Berkeley, UCLA, CSUCI, CSU Pomona, Fresno State and more!

The fund seeks highly motivated applicants attending or planning to attend a higher education institution in Fall 2018. Applicants are not required to be FAFSA eligible. Preference is given to students who have participated in MICOP's Tequio Youth Group.

To apply, students may download the application from the MICOP website, www.mixteco.org/tequio. The application is due by 5 pm, May 4th, 2018. Recipients will be notified in the first week of July and will receive their award during MICOP's annual Night in Oaxaca celebration, August 10th 2018.

We welcome donations to make future scholarship assistance possible. Our current class of Tequio Youth Leaders have been accepted to the following institutions: Johnson and Wales University, UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UCLA, CSUCI, CSUN, Oxnard College, and Ventura College. To donate to the fund, please send checks to "MICOP" with "Tequio Scholarship Fund" in the memo, to P.O. Box 20543, Oxnard, CA 93034, or make a donation online at <http://mixteco.org/donate> and choose "Tequio Scholarship."

###