

# NEWS



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## For Immediate Release

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**Photo caption:** At CAMEO's Annual Graduation Luncheon in June, Stanford-bound Adonis Rubio (standing), who is flanked by his co-mentors Char Bockholt (left) and Susan Redfield (right), received a \$6,000 scholarship award from CAMEO's Gail Bradley (not in photo) to assist with his educational expenses. With his proud parents, Norma, and Fernando Rubio (seated) present, Adonis shared that he will use the funds to pursue a degree in biology and biochemistry at Stanford.

### **CAMEO Hits a High Note with Student Graduation**

The Grand Long Beach Events Center set the stage for CAMEO's Graduation Luncheon held on June 4, 2017. Immediate Past CAMEO Chair, **Char Bockholt**, welcomed students graduating from CAMEO's mentoring program, their parents and special guests, and member volunteers of CAMEO and Assistance League of Long Beach. CAMEO, an auxiliary of the Assistance League of Long Beach, is now in its 30<sup>th</sup> year of providing youth from the Long Beach Unified School District and Long Beach City College with a framework for academic and personal success that includes one-on-one mentoring.

The program is designed to guide high school sophomores through a three year, one-on-one mentoring program commitment to help them identify their college and career goals. In addition to mentoring, the program includes: monthly enrichment workshops and cultural activities, paid summer internships, funds for the purchase of books and academic materials and, academic scholarships and computers for graduating seniors. Community college students experience a two-year journey with similar program requirements, gearing them toward a path of transferring to a four-year college or university.

After a lunch of chicken parmesan and pasta primavera, nine high school students and one Long Beach City College student were recognized by CAMEO's Immediate Past Philanthropy Chair, **Mary Alice McLoughlin**. Every student who completed CAMEO's program requirements, which included participation in the program's various career and education workshops, summer job internships and culturally-oriented field trips, and who maintained academic achievement, received a new computer and printer and a \$1,000 scholarship upon graduation from their first and second semesters of college.

Students also applied for additional scholarship support. CAMEO member **Gail Bradley** presented Stanford-bound **Adonis Rubio** (co-mentored by **Char Bockholt** and **Susan**

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**Redfield**) a scholarship of \$6,000 in the name of **Eric Bradley**, Gail's husband, who passed away in 2016. The scholarship award was donated by family and friends in the name of Eric Bradley, and Adonis was selected as the recipient for having a similar passion for social justice as Eric had demonstrated in his life. Adonis, who completed a summer internship with the Long Beach city, will continue his social justice journey as he studies biology and biochemistry at Stanford. (Additionally, Gail underwrote and created the fresh floral centerpieces of soft-colored roses, peonies, lilies, and hydrangeas.)

Additional scholarships were also awarded to the many of the students. From Wilson High School UCI-bound Jasmine Robles (mentor **Peggy Anatol**) received a \$2,000 award named after CAMEO founding member **Blanche Brewster Cannady**; CSULB-bound Olvin Hernandez, now gainfully employed with the City of Lakewood following his internship with them, received \$1,500 thanks to the **Rosa Pedersen/Molina** Scholarship; and LBCC-bound Anthony Gomez received a \$1,000 scholarship in the name of Wilson High School aquatics coach, **Latham Bell**, son of past CAMEO chair, **Susan and Dr. Dick Bell**, who unexpectedly passed away in May.

From Poly High School: LBCC-bound Sandy Rios received a \$1,500 **Carleen Jacques & Rubye Keene** scholarship; and Glendale City College bound Adrianna Torres received a \$1,000 scholarship in the name of **Vanessa Plotkin**, a former CAMEO program graduate and junior at UC Berkeley who died in the Oakland Ghost Fire. Long Beach City College graduate Rebecca Linares received a \$2,000 scholarship provided by CAMEO ex-chairs. In all, a total of \$25,000 in scholarships were awarded and \$11,000 in new computers and printers were distributed.

As an additional highlight, Danielle Bridgewater, a 2013 graduate of CAMEO's program, shared her inspiring story of obstacles overcome with the recent CAMEO grads. After having lived in 15 different foster homes and attending 9 different high schools, Danielle graduated from Jordan High School. She attended LBCC before graduating from CSULB, obtaining a BA in Psychology. She has applied for participation in the Master's Program and is working in space exploration to become a human factor specialist. Danielle's former mentor, **Susan Redfield**, proudly looked on and joined the other 50 guests in giving Danielle a rousing round of applause. Newly installed CAMEO Chair, **Diane Fagan**, congratulated the students and thanked guests for attending.

**Seen at the Scene:** CAMEO newly installed chairs **Barbara Jewel** (Philanthropy) and **Lisa Viets** (Resource Development); CAMEO past chairs, **Ginny Baxter**, **Naomi Blackmore**, **Greta Budai**, **Barbara Butler**, **Daphne Ching-Jackson**, **Diane DeWalsche**, **Chris Jurenka**, **Janis Kleinberg**, **Kathryn Meacham-Shirley**, and **Linda Rahn**; Long Beach City College counselor **Shyra Compton**; and members from Assistance League of Long Beach, President **Patti Brown**; Marketing Communications Chair **Linda Drummond**, CAMEO Chair Liaison **Cindy Summers**; executive director **Annette Kashiwabara**; and CAMEO member volunteers **Jody Cormack**, **Jane Boyce**, **Hajra Saeed**, **Linda Edgar**, **Maria Harris**, **Donna Popkin**, **Angeli Logan**, **Carmen Guess**, **Daniela Logan** and **Aura Wong**.

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