



JUSD NEWS

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Jurupa Unified School District Senior Awarded QuestBridge National College Match Scholarship

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JURUPA VALLEY, CA -- This year, 12th-grader Andrew Portillo became Rubidoux High School's third QuestBridge National College Match Scholarship recipient within the last 18 years.

Andrew, the only Jurupa Unified student to earn one of the prestigious scholarships this year, was recently admitted to Boston University with a full four-year scholarship worth over \$325,000. He is one of 278 QuestBridge recipients matched with Boston University, and one of 2,550 finalists nationwide.

"I was very happy to be considered a finalist. I was telling everyone I know, I was very excited. It was a great moment," said Andrew about being a National College Match Scholarship recipient. "It feels great. It feels surreal to have gotten in. I get inspired and moved by the story, and I try to tell others as well (that) through my work I was able to do this... put in the work, and you can do the same."

QuestBridge National College Match has successfully connected over 19,000 students with full scholarships at some of the nation's best colleges. Match Scholarship Recipients receive early admission, a full four-year scholarship to one of QuestBridge's 55 college partners, a generous financial aid package to cover tuition, housing, food, books and supplies, and travel expenses.

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To be considered for a Match Scholarship, students must be high-achieving and plan to attend college in the fall after high school. Students typically rank in the top 5-10% of their classes, are first-generation in their families to attend a four-year college, and make meaningful contributions to their school or community. Family income is also considered.

“This (scholarship) shows that even though we don't have the same privileges and resources that others may have, you can still work to get to a level where you can receive the same outcome,” said Andrew.

Andrew holds a 4.4 GPA, is enrolled in various Advanced Placement courses at Rubidoux High School, and takes classes through Riverside City College. Despite the difficult and time-consuming courses, Andrew is also actively involved in clubs and organizations.

As a first-generation college student, Andrew will be majoring in engineering in the fall. Andrew's interest in studying engineering was partly due to being enrolled in AP Calculus and the environment that was fostered in that classroom.

Unlike many students, math is Andrew's area of passion, and he enjoys sharing his gift with his peers and community through Mathletes and as a volunteer.

He has run booths at family math nights, given up his Saturdays to help his guidance counselor, Ms. Leticia Mellin at campuswide events, and has served the Lake Elsinore and Coachella Valley communities through the Youth Advisory Council.

“I grew up here, and I believe it shaped all my experiences and who I became. I believe I wouldn't be a QuestBridge match recipient unless I grew up here,” said Andrew. “(Volunteering) is my way of thanking them for everything, for me.”

“It is inspiring to see Andrew be selected because we need to share with the rest of the community, with the district that hard work pays off,” said Ms. Mellin. “We do have an opportunity, and we should have hope. (This) is possible.”

“This scholarship opens the door for Andrew to pursue his passion, and as a community, we are proud of what he has accomplished,” said Jurupa Unified Superintendent Dr. Trenton Hansen. “Andrew reflects our JUSD team's commitment to ensuring all students have the opportunity to reach their full potential.”

According to QuestBridge, more finalists will become QuestBridge Scholars through QuestBridge Regular Decision or other admission rounds. All finalists who ultimately enroll in QuestBridge college partners join a community of over 35,000 QuestBridge Scholars and Alumni worldwide.

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ABOUT QUESTBRIDGE

QuestBridge is a national nonprofit organization that connects high-achieving students from low-income backgrounds with a thriving community and transformative educational, career, and life opportunities that help propel them to lives of fulfillment, meaning, and purpose. From QuestBridge's founding over 30 years ago, the organization has always focused on creating opportunities for students from low-income backgrounds, regardless of race, geography, or academic interest.

ABOUT JURUPA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Jurupa Unified School District is located within Riverside County. JUSD is made up of twenty-six schools total; fifteen elementary schools, one TK-6 music academy, one K-8 STEAM academy, three middle schools, three high schools, one continuation school, one adult alternative school, and one Pre-K school readiness center.