

NEW LEADER SCHOLAR BIOGRAPHIES

TERRY ALLEN, BA, MA, NLS Scholar 2012, 2017, graduated from UC Berkeley with a bachelor's degree in Rhetoric. The first in his family to attend college and a foster child raised in the projects of San Francisco, his observations of the education tracking system inspired him to assist others in reaching their highest potential. As an undergraduate, Terry served in many campus and community leadership positions including a Pre MBA Global Leadership Program at Yale University. Following his graduation, Terry entered the White House Internship Program under the Obama Administration and then earned a master's degree from Columbia University in Education Policy. Now in his second year of doctoral study in the Education Department of UCLA, he serves as a graduate student researcher and a course instructor in that department. He also serves as a Director of People Strategy and Operations at FOREFRONT, a nonprofit that focuses on innovative, long-term sustainability projects for undeveloped communities and he is writing a book which details his life experiences. He received two New Leader scholarships.

VIOLETA ALVAREZ, BA, NLS Scholar 2015, graduated from the University of California, Berkeley with a bachelor's in Political Science and a minor in Ethnic Studies. She grew up with a single mother who worked two jobs in order to take care of her and her two siblings. As a thirteen year old, she began drinking, using drugs and engaged in gang activity and wound up in juvenile hall on several occasions. At seventeen, she dropped out of high school and at nineteen found herself pregnant and facing a long prison sentence. She vowed to forge a different path for herself and her son through education. Violeta has been tutoring at San Quentin State Prison since 2014 and belongs to several social justice organizations. She is the co-founder and first fulltime program director of Berkeley Underground Scholar, the first UC established

organization serving formerly incarcerated and system affected students. She plans to earn a master's in Public Policy as well as a law degree in order to work with underprivileged and minority communities with an emphasis on stigmatized groups.

LANICE AVERY, BA, PhD, NLS Scholar 2005, 2006, 2007, received her BA from San Francisco State University and her PhD in Psychology and Women's Studies from the University of Michigan in 2016. She is now an Assistant Professor of Psychology and Women's Studies at the University of Virginia. Lanice has published extensively, received an honorable mention from the National Science Foundation and is the recipient of a three-year pre-doctoral Ford Fellowship. The first in her family to attend college, she has a deep commitment to help marginalized youth continue their education. In her senior year at SFSU, she was invited to join a select group of honor students who were introduced to training in research. Lanice worked for many years with various HIV/AIDS organizations helping the transgender community obtain access to social services. Having experienced firsthand the impact of discrimination based on race and sexual orientation, she has devoted her energy to assisting oppressed groups with help in housing, employment and advanced education. She received three New Leader scholarships.

JEWELL BACHELOR, BA, MA, NLS Scholar 2014, 2015, moved seamlessly from her senior year at San Francisco State where she majored in Africana Studies to receiving a master's degree in Ethnic Studies. She is the first in her family to attend college and is deeply committed to helping others from similar backgrounds pursue their education. She founded an after-school program, Black Diamonds Reflected, to inspire African American girls to reach for their dreams. She was a program coordinator at Claremont Middle School in Oakland while working on her master's degree and studied the use of belittling language by black grade school girls. She has

gone on to pursue her PhD in Africana Studies at Temple University. She received two New Leader scholarships.

HALEH BADKOOBEHI, BS, MPH, MD, NLS Scholar 2002, 2009-2015, received her bachelor's degree in Molecular and Systems Neuroscience from UC Berkeley. She completed her MD at Albany Medical College in 2009 and her master's in Public Health from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Her thesis focused on the epidemiology of orthopedic injuries in post conflict war zones in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Haleh was Head Resident in Orthopedics at Harbor –UCLA Hospital, a county hospital treating a largely indigent population. Following her last year of residency, she received a postdoctoral fellowship in pediatric orthopedics at the University of Southern California, Children's Hospital. She is involved with a number of public health initiatives at Harbor-UCLA, reflecting her lifelong commitment to underserved, high-risk, poor populations. As a refugee herself, when her own family was unable to return to Iran, she has faced many of the hardships associated with immigration. This led her to volunteer work at an orphanage in Cambodia and to research and clinical work at HEAL Africa, a non-governmental organization and hospital in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Haleh is now an Assistant Professor of Orthopedics at Harbor-UCLA. Haleh has received seven New Leader scholarships.

MELISSA BARKER, BA, MA, NLS Scholar 2011, received her bachelor's degree from UC Berkeley as an Interdisciplinary Studies Major. A single mother, Melissa's work, challenging access to education for single mothers on welfare, took her to UC Berkeley's Women's Empowerment Symposium. She then was invited to the Clinton Global Initiative University and went to Washington, DC as a participant in the Institute of Women's Policy Research. In 2014, she received a master's degree in Leadership Studies with a concentration in social justice from

St. Mary's. Following her master's degree, she went on to join the staff of Berkeley's Alumni Association, and is now continuing her doctoral studies at St. Mary's University. She received one New Leader scholarship.

ELAINE BARTOLOME, BS, MS, NLS Scholar 2008, 2009, is a single mother who graduated from San Francisco State University with an undergraduate degree in nursing. Arriving from the Philippines at age seven, not speaking English, and sharing a one-bedroom apartment with her four siblings, mother and uncle gave her great compassion for others in similar positions. Her young son, A.J. partially inspired her determination to become a nurse who works with underserved populations. Elaine was active in many organizations, on and off campus that offered help to young mothers, pregnant teens and the homeless while an undergraduate. She is working as a registered nurse in telemetry at Seton Medical Center and plans to apply to the Family Nurse Practitioner Program at UCSF. She received two New Leader scholarships.

AISHAH BASHIR, BA, NLS Scholar 2001, graduated from UC Berkeley with an interdisciplinary degree in Anthropology, African-American Studies, and Public Health, She is the single mother of two young children who hopes to combine her interest in traditional African healing with her work in dance to open a women's center that will offer health services to the African-American Community.

CAMILLE BATES, BA, MA, NLS Scholar 2008, earned a bachelor's degree in Psychology and a master's degree in the School of Education at San Francisco State University. Her emphasis has been on equity and social justice. She was born in Texas in 1985 as the last of the miscegenation laws banning interracial marriage was phased out. Her early education was inconsistent and included periods of isolation and frequent relocation due to domestic violence. From the age of ten to seventeen, Camille lived in the Netherlands and saw firsthand the

struggles of marginalized immigrant communities. This reinforced her commitment to help underrepresented groups deal with issues of trauma and inter-personal violence. Since 2007, she has provided counseling to women of color through San Francisco Women against Rape and now works as a counselor for transitional-aged youth. Camille is the “first queer woman of color” in her family to go to college.

CINDY BICK, BA, PhD, NLS Scholar 2004, obtained a Bachelors Degree in Organismal and Conservational Biology from San Jose State University and a doctorate in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Michigan. Cindy was born in American Samoa and moved to California for school. Though her mother is illiterate and her family of origin remains poor, her mother encouraged Cindy to continue her education. She is interested in understanding the feminist movement in relation to issues of class and race because she witnessed considerable violence against women in her formative years. In the summer of 2009 she taught tropical biology in Costa Rica and plans to continue her research in that area. In recent years, Cindy’s studies have focused primarily on research in tropical ecology.

MEGAN BLANCHARD, BA, NLS Scholar 2011, is currently a PhD candidate in Sociology and Social Policy at Princeton University. She is also affiliated with the African American Studies Department. Her broad research interests include policing, neighborhood inequality, and race discrimination. At Princeton, Megan organizes the Race and Inequality lecture series, which attempts to facilitate sustained engagement on the topics of race and inequality among students and faculty on campus. As a participant in the Prison Teaching Initiative, she teaches college-level courses in New Jersey state prisons for incarcerated adults earning their associate degree. She has worked as a Diversity Fellow on campus and has served as President of the Graduate Women of Color Caucus. She earned her BA in Sociology at the University of California,

Berkeley where she graduated with high honors. As an undergraduate, she was a McNair Scholar, a PPIA fellow, and UCDC scholar. She also held multiple community leadership positions and co-founded an organization which focused on scholarly activism and community service in the Bay area. Megan worked at Mathematica Policy Research as a research assistant and programmer after graduation.

RICHARD D. BRIDGES, JR., BA, NLS Scholar 2014 -2017, is currently a third year graduate student in the Public Health master's degree Program at San Jose State University. He graduated from San Francisco State with a major in health education in 2014. His goal is to use his master's degree in Public Health to help those who have struggled with many of the same problems which led him to a "vicious cycle of recidivism, substance abuse, and hopelessness". While working full time and attending school, he has facilitated a bi-monthly group at a substance abuse treatment facility in San Francisco and worked with those struggling with Hepatitis C. Richard spent his young adulthood in and out of the criminal justice system, ultimately turning to education in order to break the cycle. He said he felt compelled to be a champion for the betterment of humanity. Richard is committed to pursuing a doctorate in Public Health. He received four New Leader scholarships.

TIFFANY BROOKS, BA, NLS Scholar 2006, graduated from San Francisco State University with a degree in Criminal Justice. Growing up in the foster care system created a special imperative for her to work toward affecting change in both the foster care and juvenile justice systems. She helped create a program for emancipated foster children on campus in addition to many other mentoring activities. She is now enrolled in a master's program in film at USC. She has worked for the San Francisco State University Police Department as a Crime Prevention Coordinator.

DERICK BROWN, BA, NLS Scholar 2007, 2008, is the Director of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services (MONS). His job is to ensure that MONS meets its commitment to work in partnership with the neighborhoods and communities of San Francisco to improve the overall quality of life for all City residents. As Director, he reports directly to the Mayor, and keeps him apprised of the issues and concerns of the diverse communities to ensure residents have access to the services and support they deserve. Derick was born and raised in San Francisco. He knew where he wanted to go and only needed a clear path to get there. After graduating from George Washington High School, he began working in youth development. Derick worked at the Boys and Girls Clubs of San Francisco and the San Francisco Juvenile Probation Department. While working, Derick enrolled in City College of San Francisco and became a trustee. Two years later, Derick transferred to UC Berkeley, where he graduated with honors and upon graduating became a CORO Fellow. After Derick's fellowship, he returned to the Boys and Girls Clubs of San Francisco as the Director of Community Relations. He received two New Leader Scholarships.

TONIA BUI, BA, MPP, NLS Scholar 2006, graduated from UC Berkeley with a double major in Gender and Women's Studies and Mass Communications. Her parents are Vietnamese boat people who sought political asylum in the United States after the Vietnam War. Their struggle has been the cornerstone for Tonia's desire to pursue higher education and a career in public service. Tonia has been an advocate for underrepresented communities through media relations, strategic communications and constituent outreach for nearly a decade. She is now a senior consultant at Booz Allen Hamilton, focusing on the management of federal financial assistance programs and interagency coordination efforts. In 2016, she was appointed to serve a three year term on the Montgomery County Community Development Committee by the County Executive. Tonia previously served as the communications specialist for Equal Justice Works, a national

non-profit organization that addresses legal barriers in underrepresented communities. Her efforts to build stakeholder engagement stems from experiences leading legislative messaging efforts as the Member Outreach Assistant to former Vice Chairman of the House Democratic Caucus, Rep. Xavier Becerra (CA-34), before he became California's Attorney General. She is the author of "Shaping the Mainstream as an Asian American Woman: Politics within Politics," which was published in the Harvard Asian American Policy Review. Her article led her to launch the "Politics within Politics" monthly blog, which is published in www.mymcmedia.org. In 2013, Tonia completed the master's Program in Public Policy at American University with a fellowship. She is currently managing her husband's campaign for county councilman.

HONG CAO, BA, MPA, NLS Scholar 2006, 2007, graduated with a degree in political science and completed a master's program in Public Administration at San Jose State University. She is currently a part time employee of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors where she works in community outreach. Hong was born in Vietnam and came to the US with her father in 1993. In sixth grade, following a serious injury to her mother, she took over the delivery route of the San Jose Mercury. She continued to deliver the paper every day of the year between midnight and 6 a.m. through college. As an undergraduate she still found the time to volunteer with a number of community organizations that help the Vietnamese population. Hong is a recipient of a Bill and Melinda Gates Millennium Scholarship, the first ever given to a student at San Jose State. She received two New Leader scholarships.

ELIAZAR CHACHA, BA, MA, JD, NLS Scholar 2009, graduated from Berkeley in 2010, majoring in both African American and Interdisciplinary Studies with a minor in Education. After emigrating from Tanzania, Eliazar learned the profound lessons of determination and giving back to his community from his parents and used those lessons to change his future. In

addition to his academic achievements, he tutored underprivileged students while at Berkeley and was a facilitator for an Education 190 course focused on the educational and legal frameworks that perpetuate inequality. After college, Eliazar was a Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Emerging Leaders Fellow in the Washington, DC office of Senator Charles (Chuck) Schumer of New York. Following this experience, he earned a master's in History from New York University. Eliazar then enrolled and graduated three years later with a JD from Columbia Law School.

ANTHONY CHAN, BA, NLS Scholar 2013, graduated from San Francisco State University with a joint degree in Kinesiology and Asian American Studies. He emigrated from China to the United States with his family when he was eight years old. Mastering English and becoming acculturated were two major hurdles for him and his poverty-stricken family. Interested in health affairs public policy as a result of his family's experiences, he volunteered at the VA, California Pacific Medical Center, UCSF, and the Physician Organizing Committee. Anthony spent two years with AmeriCorps as a team leader in Jumpstart for America. At SFSU, he was a research team leader for the Sunday Streets Economic Assessment Project. Asian American healthcare reform is his passion. Anthony is applying to graduate programs in public health.

STEPHANIE CHIRI, BA, LSW, NLS Scholar 2011, Stephanie graduated on the Dean's List from San Francisco State University with a bachelor's degree in Child and Adolescent Development. She received the Child and Adolescent Development Department Undergraduate Honoree Award, the Dr. Marjorie Seashore Achievement and Service Award, and the San Francisco State Senior Scholarship. She is a graduate of the University of Chicago's School of Social Service Administration. In 2016, she obtained a master's in Social Work with a focus in child and adolescent mental health. During her time in graduate school, she was named a 2015

fellow of the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Minority Fellow Youth Program. The fellowship provided special training to minority therapists who are dedicated to working with youth from racially and ethnically diverse populations. Her clinical internships included working with first generation undocumented youth and with LGBTQ identified youth living with HIV, or who were considered vulnerable to HIV, on Chicago's South Side.

CYNTHIA CISNEROS, BS, NLS Scholar 2011, earned her bachelor's degree in Chemistry from Sonoma State University. She teaches high school chemistry but hopes to earn a doctorate in forensic pathology and work with minority community families who have lost a loved one. While in college, Cynthia worked at a local garden that fed families in need, organized conferences in the Latino community and ran informational workshops on AB540, the state law that opened college opportunities to undocumented students. At the same time, she tutored students in chemistry and math and organized chemistry events at the university for minority K-8 students. Inspired by her brother, diagnosed as autistic but able to thrive in public schools, she is determined to be a "Latina who never quits".

KEN COELHO, BA, MS, MPhil, NLS Scholar 2004, is the Director of Quality Improvement and Assurance at the Institute on Aging, a San Francisco-based non-profit dedicated to preserving the dignity, independence and well-being of aging adults and people living with disabilities. Ken is an accreditation site visitor for the Public Health Accreditation Board and a doctoral candidate specializing in leadership and organizational behavior at A.T. Still University of Health Sciences. He completed his undergraduate studies in psychology at UC Berkeley. Ken completed the master's program in Global Health Sciences at the UCSF and the MPhil in Public Health and Primary Care at the University of Cambridge, UK. Ken was recently elected Fellow of the U.K. Royal Society for Public Health.

XAVIER CORONA, BA, MPP, MBA, NLS Scholar 2000, emigrated from Mexico with his parents and earned a bachelor's degree from UC Berkeley in 2001 with majors in Peace and Conflict Studies and Chicano Studies. He received a master's degree in Public Policy in Education from the University of Michigan and completed a second master's degree in Business Administration at the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. Xavier returned to San Diego and worked as a community relations officer for a national retail chain until he was recruited for a position in Wisconsin as a branch manager for Chase Morgan Stanley. He worked in Chicago for two years as head of the Latino Division for Flowers Communication Group and volunteered at the Public Schools Board of the Chicago School System, helping to develop a system wide Safety and Security Strategy. After spending time in Denver as the regional marketing manager for McDonald's, he returned to San Diego. Recently, Xavier was recognized by Diversity MBA magazine as one of the top 100 emerging leaders under fifty.

LA'SHAY CRAYTON, BA, MPH, NLS Scholar in 2011, received her bachelor's degree in Public Health from San Francisco State University. She went on to graduate study at Columbia and was awarded a master's degree in Public Health from the Mailman School of Public Health in 2015. Her emphasis at that time was on social epidemiology. La'Shay partnered with Columbia University, churches and other communities to study the effects, facilitators, barriers and stigma around accessing mental health care with specific emphasis on communities in Harlem. La'Shay then accepted a position as coordinator of this program at the Psychiatric Institute at Columbia, P & S. She teaches community-based participatory research, helps to design research studies, and provides counseling as a consultant. She is now finishing her second master's in Clinical Social Work at Columbia University. La'Shay has published in professional journals and her first book *Living Well and Living Well Loved* was released in 2017.

APRIL JOY DAMIAN, BA, MS, Dr. PH, NLS Scholar 2004, earned a BA in Ethnic Studies from UC Berkeley and a master's in Science from Harvard. She is a Filipina and first-generation college student from a background of poverty. She has engaged in extensive outreach and mentoring work through her church and wrote a senior thesis on cardiovascular disease in the Filipino community. She received a Truman Scholarship in 2005 and worked for a year at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Washington, DC. She has worked on a variety of programs to improve public health in the Filipino community, including the Bridges to Health Program of the Greenlining Institute at Berkeley. She earned a doctorate in public health from Johns Hopkins where she studied the police response to training in Baltimore racial riots.

RITANKAR DAS, BS, MSc Oxford, NLS Scholar 2012, completed simultaneous degrees in Chemical Biology and Bioengineering with a minor in Creative Writing at UC Berkeley, where he has worked as an academic senator and as a graduate student instructor. He is the founding president of the American Chemical Society chapter on campus and was the editor-in-chief of the Berkeley Chemical Review research journal. His goal is to become a physician and practice in immigrant communities. While at Berkeley, he founded the non-profit, See Your Future, which seeks to increase the number of students from low-performing schools interested in science, technology, engineering and math. He is currently working with the US Department of Energy to build demonstration videos for teachers. He is a published poet who has taught several courses on poetry, hosted slams and workshops both on campus and at local community colleges and high schools, and judged poetry competitions. Ritankar is building a company which pioneers software solutions to share medical data electronically across systems of care which minimize physician error in recording data and thereby limiting significant errors in medical care.

ASHLEY DUNN, BS, MD, NLS Scholar 2005-2006, graduated from UC Berkeley, with a bachelors' degree in History and Molecular and Cell Biology. She is from a single parent, economically disadvantaged background and is the first in her family to attend college. Due to a severe cranio-facial birth defect, Ashley has undergone many painful surgeries, leading to a lifelong interest in helping medically indigent youngsters with surgically correctible deformities. Ashley chose to write an honors thesis in her junior year on the history of genetics at Berkeley, for which she received high honors. While working in the Surgical Research Department of UCSF, she studied the potential for embryonic stem cells to improve rates of wound healing in diabetic patients. Ashley has completed her medical degree at USC and is now in her third year of residency at Yale Medical School. She received two New Leader scholarships.

SUSAN EAR, BA, NLS Scholar 2003, graduated from UC Berkeley with majors in Political Science and Interdisciplinary Studies. Her parents are survivors of the Cambodian genocide who were granted political asylum in the United States. Susan has earned numerous awards and honors for both her scholarship and community service. She is a co-founder of an after-school tutoring and mentoring program in Oakland. While at Berkeley, Susan engaged in significant research on the atrocities committed against ethnic minorities by governments. In 2005, she published two articles in the California Legal Studies Journal and the Berkeley McNair Research Journal on the atrocities in Darfur and Cambodia. Susan also studied at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. She was accepted into top law schools but chose to help her mother run a family business in Texas.

BRITTNEY ENIN, NLS Scholar 2017, is an undergraduate at UC Berkeley in her senior year majoring in public health with an emphasis on structural equity and minoring in African-American studies. The eldest daughter of Ghanaian immigrants, Brittney experienced extreme

food and housing insecurity throughout her childhood which led her to understand the multiple roots of marginalization and the impact of poverty on a family's sense of security. She works with black students on campus to help them access health needs at the University Health Center, and also serves as a healthy equity intern with Healthy Black Families Inc., a non-profit focused on the holistic well-being of black families. Brittney wants to earn both a master's in public health and social work, so that she can become a counselor and public health advocate for marginalized communities and advocate for health and wellness that is accessible to all.

DARIAN EPHERSON, BA, NLS Scholar 2016, grew up in Inglewood, California, a small predominantly black and Latino suburb of Los Angeles. Darian spent this past fall in the UCDC program and the spring and summer semesters in Paris and London through the Global Cities Urban Realities Program. She is drawn to academic research, particularly to voter participation among communities of color. Her dream is to become a professor of political science and educate others about the "multiple systems of oppression within the American political system". She works for Google.

GABRIELLE FALZONE, BA, NLS Scholar 2002, 2010, 2013- 2016, graduated from San Francisco State University in 2002 with a major in Psychology and a minor in Classics. She is currently attending UC Berkeley's Sociocultural MA/Ph.D. Program in the School of Education. Having centered her previous work on marginalized youth still in school or homeless, her current emphasis is youth of color who have been expelled from school. Using her own experience as a teenage runaway, she has been successful in developing programs for troubled homeless youth, incorporating her interest in Greek Mythology as part of a successful outreach approach. She graduated magna cum laude, was admitted to Psi Chi, the Golden Key Honor Society and to Phi Beta Kappa. Following her graduation, she attended New College's multicultural teaching

program, acquiring three teaching credentials. Gabby taught at two different charter schools so that she could foster three teenagers prior to starting her graduate studies at Berkeley. She is completing her dissertation using a model of participatory research. During this period, she has tutored the football team, the women's soccer team and became an advanced instructor in the Education Department where she teaches a class on critical thinking. This past spring, she created a well received conference on the impact of early trauma on youth. She received five New Leader scholarships.

J. GABRIEL FRALEY, BS, NLS Scholar 2016, 2017, received a Bachelor of Science Degree from San Francisco State University with a major in Cell and Molecular Biology. He is currently in the Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology Doctoral Program at UC Davis. While at San Francisco State, he conducted molecular biology research in the laboratory of a renowned San Francisco State University professor. He plans a future in biomedical sciences research after earning his PhD with an emphasis on neurological disease and cancer. As a teenager in a mixed race family, living well below the poverty level, he was forced to drop out of high school but was later able to attain a GED. Prior to his entering SFSU, Gabriel served in the US Coast Guard and attended numerous community colleges in an attempt to determine his final area of concentration. He received two New Leader scholarships.

MELISSA FREEMAN, BA, NLS Scholar 2001, graduated from UC Berkeley with a major in Rhetoric. She experienced a traumatic childhood in Appalachia. Melissa spent a semester in Washington, DC on scholarship, interning at the World Bank on a project to develop internet access in rural areas of developing countries. Melissa plans a career in law to provide legal support to low income populations.

MARLYSA D. GAMBLIN, BA, MPP, NLS Scholar 2011, was awarded a bachelor's degree in African American Studies with a minor in Public Policy and Education at UC Berkeley and earned her master's in Public Policy at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. She works as the Domestic Advisor for Policies and Programs for Specific Populations at Bread for the World, where her expertise is providing research and analysis to close the racial hunger and income divide. Her work focuses on African Americans, Latinos, and Native Americans, those involved with the criminal justice system, undocumented immigrants and female-headed households. She works closely with the White House and Congress on non-administrative policies and legislative changes that will end poverty among these communities. Most recently, she created the Racial Wealth Gap Learning Simulation, an interactive tool that helps participants understand the importance of race in federal policy that has shaped the current racial inequalities that we see today.

VERONICA GARCIA, BA, NLS Scholar 2013, received a bachelor's degree in Latino (a) Studies from San Francisco State University. Despite being a single parent of two, she has been deeply involved in community issues. While at City College of San Francisco, she worked as a base-building leader with an on campus group, Students Making a Change for Educational Advocacy. She helped transform a racially biased placement testing policy with one that was transformational in nature. The Trustees of City College adopted and have implemented the recommended policy changes this past spring. Veronica hopes to continue her commitment to affect change in her community through graduate studies in counseling. She hopes that her emphasis on academic and career counseling will benefit future generations of her community and the larger "familia". The Human Rights Commission of San Francisco selected her as one of

eight recipients for the 2013 Human Rights Commission Hero Award. She is currently employed by the Human Rights Commission in San Francisco.

VICKY GOMEZ, MA, PhD candidate, NLS Scholar 2002, 20013- 2017, went to City College of San Francisco as a teenage mother and transferred to San Francisco State University where she majored in both Raza Studies and Health Sciences. In 2002, she received her BA and went on to earn a master's degree at SFSU with an emphasis on Community Public Health in 2010. She is currently enrolled in UC Berkeley's Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) program and completing her dissertation research. A long time passionate advocate of health equity, Vicky is committed to researching and addressing colorectal-cancer screening disparities in the Latino community. At UC Berkeley, Vicky has devoted time to mentoring undergraduate and graduate students in several university wide programs in addition to working on her research. Her current dissertation research is focused on developing a digital media intervention to increase colorectal cancer screening rates in Latino churches. She received five New Leader scholarships.

JULIE GRAMLICH, BA, NLS Scholar 2009, graduated from UC Berkeley with a major in Political Economy. Julie worked at Google for several years to earn and save money in order to study abroad and obtain a master's degree in Business Administration from Kyoto University. She is now in her second year of study in Kyoto. In her senior year, she spent a semester in Washington DC doing research and interning on Capitol Hill. Her mother, an immigrant from Japan, gave Julie deep exposure to the Japanese language and culture, as well as a commitment to education. As a "kyooiku mama", an education-focused mother, Julie's mother instilled in her the commitment to education as a means of achieving beyond her family's economic challenges. In addition to her rigorous studies, Julie was the District Leader for the World Peace Buddhist Club.

SEDERIC GRANT, BS, NLS Scholar, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2017, graduated from UC Berkeley, with a major in public health and is committed to becoming a dentist, working with underserved populations. Coming from a family of seven, whose mother died when he was nine, Sederic was raised in foster care from elementary school. While at Cal, he was active in the Berkeley Scholars to Cal and mentored both middle and high school students as well as participating in the UC Black Recruitment and Retention Center. He is focused on the dilemma of foster care youth who age out of the system at age eighteen and lose their Medicaid coverage. Sederic spent a year as a Research Assistant at Highland County Hospital in Oakland, gathering and analyzing data in the Emergency Department in preparation for his doctoral work in dentistry. He spent a summer studying physics at the University of Sussex in order to strengthen his background in the health sciences and was selected for a year-long academic preparatory program for dentistry at UCSF. Sederic is now in his second year in dental school at UC San Francisco. He received four New Leader scholarships.

ESTHER M. GREEN, BA, MPA, NLS Scholar 2009, 2010, graduated from UC Berkeley with a major in Spanish and a minor in Public Policy. She completed a master's degree in Public Administration at San Francisco State University and went on to work as a career counselor in Berkeley's Program for Disadvantaged Students. She was raised in East Oakland by a mother on welfare. Working as a case worker for Alameda County Social Services Department and seeing firsthand the "disenfranchised position of the most vulnerable members of our community" prompted her return to school for her master's degree. She was accepted into the Institute for Civic Leadership at Mills, was a McNair Scholar, and was selected by the Goldman School of Public Policy to attend their Public Policy and International Affairs Program. Despite a heavy academic work load and three children, Esther has volunteered at the East Bay Sanctuary

Covenant and at the UC Student Parent Association for Recruitment and Retention. She received two New Leader scholarships.

KRISTOPHE GREEN, BA, NLS Scholar 2014, 2015, earned his degree in psychology at UC Berkeley. He plans to pursue a graduate degree in the same field following a yearlong administrative fellowship in San Francisco government. His father died when he was in sixth grade, he, his mother and sister, fell into dire economic circumstances. Working with underprivileged youth and issues of educational policy and mental health treatments for youth are his passions. In the summer of 2014 he managed a research project that involved taking inner city youth on river rafting trips to examine how exposure to nature affected their mental health. Following a spring semester in study abroad, he completed his BA and gave the graduation address to the psychology students at commencement in 2016. He received two New Leader scholarships.

YAHYA GRIFFIN, BA, NLS Scholar 2008, graduated from UC Berkeley with a bachelor's degree in Education and plans to obtain a doctorate in the same field. He attained a GED while in prison and found it difficult to imagine going to college given his background of drugs and crime. While at Berkeley he volunteered at Phoenix House, tutoring the residents and preparing them to take the GED exam. He was a McNair scholar and used the opportunity to study the potential impact of public graffiti as a non-traditional method of education. As the single parent of a young child and re-entry student, balancing his complex commitments was a daily struggle.

RUSLAN GURVITS, BA, NLS Scholar 2013, majored in Economics and Public Policy at UC Berkeley. His goal was to integrate those two perspectives into issues of health care. Rus emigrated with his family from the Ukraine in 2000 and his entire family experienced extreme

difficulty in accessing health care as newcomers to the United States. He volunteered at John Muir Medical Center while in high school and rapidly became the volunteer supervisor. He also became their Quality Management Intern, focusing on quality of care. He is now a research assistant at the Petris Center on Health Care Markets and Consumer Welfare. This past year, Rus became a volunteer for Save a Child's Heart, an organization raising funds for cardiac operations for Israeli and Palestinian children. Rus has been recognized by the President's Lifetime Volunteer Service Award and was appointed to the San Francisco Immigration Rights Commission as a Commissioner.

SHARYN HALL, BA, NLS Scholar 2007, received a BA from UC Berkeley with majors in Psychology and Sociology. As a single mother, Sharyn and her teenaged son were homeless and living out of a car when she applied to Berkeley, and he, to Berkeley City College. While at Berkeley, she was a leader in several student programs, including Fly to Berkeley, which recruits, welcomes and acculturates new students from underserved populations. Sharyn has researched, produced, and been on the air with Clear Channel Radio. As a McNair Scholar, her research focused on the cultural roots of stigma and prejudice.

JESSIE HERNANDEZ, BA, NLS Scholar 2011, received his degree at UC Berkeley in Public Policy. He is intent on pursuing graduate work in public policy and eventually running for the Legislature in order to create career opportunities for low income people of color. Jessie's passion is driven by his own family's experience with unemployment after his father was unable to work due to an injury and his mother experienced language discrimination at the workplace. He has held numerous leadership roles throughout his college career, including president of the Latino Undergraduate Mentorship in Public Policy Program at the Goldman School of Public Policy, Multicultural Literature co-instructor at Harvey Mudd College Upward Bound Program,

and junior institute fellow at the Public Policy and International Affairs Fellowship Program at Princeton University. But the experience that propelled him the most strongly into public policy was an internship with Representative Judy Chu and his research and advocacy through the Jobs Now program. He became Special Assistant to Jeh Johnson, Secretary of Homeland Security in 2014.

MARTHA JULISSA HERNANDEZ, BA, NLS Scholar 2014, 2015, received her degree in Rhetoric and American Studies at UC Berkeley. She is the first person in her family to attend college against almost insurmountable circumstances. She came to the United States from Honduras at the age of eight to join her family in San Bernardino, the poorest city of its size in California. Martha grew up exposed to violence and crime of all types. Her internship with the West Contra Costa County Public Education Fund has given her new tools to pursue an advanced degree in educational policy. Her dream is to attend Harvard or UC Berkeley and obtain a master's degree in Education with the goal of helping to formulate educational policy that will help low-income communities. She received two New Leader scholarships.

ROSA HERNANDEZ, BA, NLS Scholar 2014, received a degree in Interdisciplinary Studies at UC Berkeley. She immigrated to the United States with her mother in 1997 to escape the poverty of rural Michoacán with the hope of pursuing a higher education. Rosa has faced numerous challenges in order to attend college and avoid a life as a field hand or factory worker like her own mother. Rosa's focus of study is on the intersection of migration, labor and globalization. These concerns led her to work with groups such as the Homecare Workers Union, (ULTCW of Oakland), as well as with other labor rights organizations. She has started a support group for undocumented workers who are attempting to organize unions. Rosa's future goal is to obtain

joint degrees in Law and Public Policy that will allow her to practice Labor and Employment Law.

WILFREDO HERRERA, BA, MA, NLS Scholar 2000, was born in El Salvador and came to the United States as a teenager in 1992. A graduate of UC Berkeley, he received his master's degree in Latin American Studies from the University of Texas in Austin, where he studied the impact of racism in Brazil for his thesis. He went to work for Citibank as a Client Financial Analyst in Texas and specialized in helping first-time home owners in the Latin American community.

Three years ago, he returned to El Salvador and worked as an English teacher in his home village for several months. Subsequently, he taught English in Columbia. Back in the United States, he returned to his work as a personal and business banker at Citibank, He exhausted his tolerance for institutional racism and left Citibank. He then entered government service. Willie is now a senior supervisor at the Department of Social Services in Marin County, training employees in the complex tasks of helping clients receive all the benefits to which they are entitled.

MICHELLE NATASHA HONG, BA, NLS Scholar 2014, received a BA in Social Work, Public Health and Public Policy with a minor in Education at UC Berkeley. Michelle lived in a Los Angeles neighborhood plagued by violence. As a re-entry student and single mother, Michelle worked at three part-time jobs while carrying a full class load. She believes that her own ability to forge ahead despite the environment in which she grew up can be translated into affecting change for others from similar backgrounds of poverty. Her nineteen year old brother was shot and paralyzed in a drive by shooting close to her home, increasing her already strong interest in health care policy. She works at the University Health Services and in the Student Re-Entry Offices at UC Berkeley where she helps others navigate the challenges of returning to school.

JENNIFER IBARDALOZA, BA, NLS Scholar in 2003 received her degree in Psychology from San Francisco State University. She and her brother joined their mother in the United States after her grandparents raised her in the Philippines for four years. Jennifer has spent the last several years volunteering for a variety of programs which serve disadvantaged inner-youth while also conducting cross-cultural research. She extended her undergraduate education by a year in order to apply for and receive a two-year NIMH funded program which aims to increase ethnic minority representation in mental health research. She was accepted into the doctoral program in Psychology at NYU and plans to pursue further work in community psychology. Jennifer has been awarded two New Leader Scholarships.

SARAH FELICIA MOORE-JORDAN, BA, JD, NLS Scholar 2004- 2007, graduated from law school at UC Hastings. She received her bachelor's in Political Science from UC Berkeley in 2004. A foster child and independent since age eighteen, Sarah has continued to engage in community outreach despite enormous financial burdens. While an undergraduate, she devoted herself to fighting racism on campus. Following her graduation, she worked on the staff of Supervisor Keith Carson in Alameda and honed her experience in public interest law. As an adoptee with an incarcerated brother, she has a profound commitment to social justice with particular emphasis on helping those in the criminal justice system successfully re-enter society. While at Hastings, she was the Director of Development for the Hastings Public Interest Law Foundation and on the Board of Hastings's Race and Poverty Law Journal. Following her graduation, Sarah worked as a Program Associate on the staff of the Berkeley Center for Criminal Justice and is the first alumna of the New Leader Scholarship to become a NLS Board member. Sarah worked as Director of Reentry Services for the Associated Community Action

Program (ACAP) in Oakland. She then became the Director of the San Francisco Reentry Program. She received four New Leader scholarships.

NAZINEEN KANDAHARI, BS, NLS Scholar 2016, graduated magna cum laude from UC Berkeley with majors in Public Health and Molecular & Cell Biology and an emphasis in Infectious Diseases. She emigrated from Iran as a child with her refugee Afghani family. Nazineen is committed to serving the underserved, particularly refugee and multicultural communities, through medicine, research, and public health advocacy. She is passionate about resolving healthcare inequities, improving reproductive and mental health services, and conducting community-based research. Nazineen currently conducts quality improvement research at Highland Hospital to improve the delivery of healthcare services to low-income, limited English proficiency, undocumented, and transgender patients. Working with Vicky Gomez, she is the Research Project Coordinator of a community-based participatory research project using a novel digital storytelling intervention to promote colorectal cancer-screening in a predominantly Latino church. She recently had a manuscript accepted in the journal *Contraception*. Upon graduation, she received the Departmental award of Outstanding Undergraduate Researcher for her contribution to molecular genetic research on delaying the effects of aging and age-associated disease. She is the recipient of numerous prestigious scholarships including Palo Alto Medical Foundation and Women Health Care Executives. She has been accepted to medical school for 2018.

ANGEL KU, BS, NLS Scholar 2013- 2017, graduated from San Francisco State University in 2012 with a bachelor's degree in Cell and Molecular Biology. As an undocumented student, Angel and his family have faced many serious challenges every day. In his application to the NLS, he spoke of how on his morning walks to the bus station for his commute to SFSU, past the

ICE officers, were always accompanied with the fear of having his future and family taken from him. His deep commitment to his community and his focus on academic achievement have resulted in goals that merge his love of science with his commitment to community action. Angel aspires to become a research scientist in order to address the limitations of modern medicine to alleviate health disparities. Angel also mentors other students in the biomedical sciences through his work with Pre-Health Dreamers. As an undergraduate, he was President and Student Organizer for IDEAS to achieve legislation to help undocumented students move into higher education. He has combined his interest in public health with functional genomics to better understand how molecular biology can be applied to advancing the understanding of human disease. He is in his fourth year of a doctoral program in Pharmaceutical Sciences and Pharmacogenomics at UCSF. He received five New Leader scholarships.

VERONICA KEIFER NEAL, BA, PHD, NLS Scholar 2000, graduated from San Jose State in 2001 and received her doctorate from Mills College in Educational Leadership with a concentration in Ethnic Studies. She and her brother are the children of a multi-racial couple which has informed her deep commitment to teaching others about diversity and biracial identity. Together, they conducted research and created diversity training for Lawrence Livermore Lab while she was still in high school and continued this work as an undergraduate. While at Mills College, she held a position as a Diversity Specialist with the Child Care Health Programs Diversity Research and Training Project. Following her graduation from Mills, Veronica has gone on to teach diversity training at several Bay Area Universities. She and her brother have continued to administer the two non-profits they founded while she was in high school: The You in Me and the I-Pride Interracial and Intercultural Pride.

FRIEDA M. KRETH, BA, NLS Scholar 2003, graduated from UC Berkeley with a major in History. Her parents and two older siblings immigrated to the United States from Cambodia during the Khmer Rouge atrocities. Her Khmer and Chinese background sparked an intense interest in encouraging educational development of Southeast Asian youth. This profound concern has given her a strong desire to provide a minority perspective in main stream American history. Frieda spent the year following her graduation at the UC Study Abroad Program at the University of Barcelona. In subsequent years, Frieda taught history at several schools throughout Europe, hoping to provide greater awareness of the Cambodian genocide to students being taught history from an exclusively Western perspective.

ARMANDO LARA, BA, MA, NLS Scholar 2001, 2005, completed his master's degree in the Educational Leadership and Preliminary Administrator Credential Program at San Jose State University. He is a graduate of San Jose State University with a major in child and adolescent development. He emigrated from Mexico as an adolescent and is devoted to working with low income Latino youngsters. He completed his multiple subject BCLAD-Spanish teaching credential and has been working as an educator in a low income 1A school in San Jose. Several years ago, he began a special assignment as a Literacy Teacher for grades 3-6 in an Intervention Program at his school. Armando is the senior vice principal in the middle school where he has been working for many years. Armando is the first in his family to attend college and is the recipient of two New Leader scholarships.

JIRAYUT LATTHIVONGSKORN, BS, NLS Scholar 2013-2016, graduated from UC Berkeley with a major in Molecular and Cell Biology. He came to the United States with his parents as an undocumented nine year old immigrant from Thailand. Jirayut (New) has experienced firsthand the alienation and confusion immigrant families face during health crises driving him to become

a physician. Last year he became the first and only undocumented immigrant to be accepted into medical school at UCSF. With his awareness of how cultural competency affects health disparities, he is committed to bridging that distance between patients and their medical care. New became active in the immigrant rights movement and has served as Co-Chair of Asian Students Promoting Immigrant Rights through Education (ASPIRE) where he advocates for DREAM Act-related legislation to help undocumented immigrants attend college. He, along with Angel Ku and one other person, created a national organization, the Pre-Health Dreamers Project to prepare undocumented students for careers in the health sciences and address health disparities. New was awarded the 2015 UCSF Chancellor's Award for Service and the Thomas N. Burbridge Award. He currently serves as an appointee on UC President Napolitano's Advisory Group on Undocumented Students. He received four New Leader scholarships.

JENNA LEE, BA, NLS Scholar 2011, 2012, 2013, graduated from UC Berkeley. After two years as a graduate student in the School of Social Welfare, Management and Planning at Berkeley, Jenna moved to Southern California where she will complete her master's degree in Social Work at California State University. She was born in Macau, China and lived in several other countries as a girl. She was home-schooled and self-educated until entering community college. At the age of seventeen, she came to the United States independently and became a volunteer at a center for street and homeless youth in Oregon. She subsequently volunteered for an organization in Mexico and witnessed conditions of poverty that far exceeded those of the homeless with whom she had previously worked. Following her BA degree, Jenna worked on several fund-raising campaigns for non-profits as well as on a congressional campaign for Dan Seals. She has been a fundraiser for several non-profits and most recently worked with students

at Berkeley suffering from severe domestic violence by helping them obtain scholarships and grants. She received three New Leader scholarships.

LONJINO LOZCANO, BA, NLS Scholar 2013, graduated from UC Berkeley with a double major in Psychology and Business Administration. Growing up in San Bernardino, surrounded by drugs, violence, and gangs, he struggled to find his own moral compass. Becoming a teenage father at seventeen strengthened his resolve to behave responsibly toward his son and fiancé. They both came to Berkeley as students with their four-year-old son. As a participant in the Sage Scholars Program, he has shown outstanding leadership and acquired a summer research internship in health care at Kaiser Permanente. Lonjino contracted *Meningioccocal Meningitis*, which necessitated below the knee leg amputations to save his life and many months of hospitalization. Afterwards, he was diagnosed with PTSD. He returned to school, fully engaged in his studies and plans to pursue an MBA Degree with an emphasis on how to use business models to promote philanthropic approaches to low-income communities. He is also walking, running, and jumping again.

IRENE LOPEZ, BA, JD, NLS Scholar 2013, received her degree in sociology from UC Berkeley. As a teenager, living in impoverished circumstances, with little stability and much to fear, she was unable to attend school regularly and suffered the consequences. Once she became a young mother, she set out to create entirely different life circumstances for her daughter. Not only did she excel in school but she has taught a Teach in Prison class at UC Berkeley in order to educate other students on the social issues of mass incarceration and its impact on low income minority communities. Her own research focused on barriers that the formerly incarcerated face. Irene completed law school at Northwestern in 2017 and has returned to the Bay Area with her daughter.

CARLOS MACIAS PRIETO, BA, MA, PhD candidate, NLS Scholar 2007, 2011-2016, was born in Nochistlan, Zacatecas, Mexico and immigrated to the United States with his family when he was ten years old. He received his BA degree from UC, Berkeley in 2007 and his master's degree in American Studies from Purdue in 2011. He is currently in the PhD program in Spanish and Portuguese at Berkeley. In 2017, he passed his qualifying examination in the Nahuatl language, an important aspect of his scholarly research. Over the years, Carlos has shown a passion and commitment to helping disadvantaged students whose original language was not English become proficient in writing. He has been a tutor in a low-income high school in Oakland and at Laney Community College. At UC Berkeley, Carlos has tutored students in the Student Learning Center, taught in the Summer Bridge Program, and served as a coordinator for the Starting Point Mentorship Program. He has devoted himself to becoming a reader for scholarship applications in several programs and has offered workshops on graduate school application to New Leader Scholars. Carlos plans to become a professor in a leading academic university in order to merge his scholarly and research interests with those of serving disadvantaged students. He received seven New Leader scholarships.

TABITHA FREYTAG MANCINI, BA, MA, NLS Scholar 2011, 2012, graduated from UC Berkeley with a degree in sociology and completed her master's degree in Special Education at the University of Connecticut. She runs a program in Special Education at the University of Western Massachusetts. She used the class action suit brought against UCB by her and two other students to make certain that visually impaired students gain access to academic materials in a form they require. She is the first in her family of seven to earn a college degree. Tabitha is involved with Project Eye-to-Eye, which mentors high school students with learning differences. She regularly accepts many speaking engagements sharing her story and life experiences with

various organizations. Having raised two sons, she works to inspire them as well as her many nieces and nephews through her long-term goal of obtaining a PhD in Psychology. She received two New Leader scholarships.

RULETTE MAPP, BA, NLS Scholar 2007, received her BA in Art History from UC Berkeley. She is a single, divorced mother with three children, who was emancipated from foster care at age eighteen, and learned to face the world alone. After odd jobs and an initial unsuccessful try at college, Rue opened a small game and hobby store in 2003 while raising her children as a single parent and simultaneously holding another job. Following her transfer to Berkeley from a community college, she dedicated herself to recruiting and training under-represented minorities and non-traditional older students and student parents to Berkeley. She has received numerous honors, including the Celia J. Peeler Award, the Philanthropic Education Organization Award and IDEAL Scholar designation. Rue was the keynote speaker at the 2007 Multi-Cultural Transfer Day. In 2009, Rue created an online community called Outdoor Afro to induce more people of color into outdoor family activities. She has been invited to attend two White House Conferences. Rue has created Outdoor Afro Programs in 28 states and has been recognized by the Sierra Club as an outstanding contributor to environmental issues. She was awarded conservation “hero” status by the Wilderness Society and appointed by Governor Brown as a Commissioner of the California State Parks and was invited to give a Tedx talk.

CALEB MARTINEZ, NLS Scholar 2017, is a senior at UC Berkeley majoring in Political Science and Public Policy. Caleb grew up in the Imperial Valley with six siblings and was raised by a single mother on the Pascua Yaqui Reservation in Tucson. His mother fled domestic violence, immigrating to the United States as a fifteen year old and found work through the Bracero Program. As a single father with a young daughter, he feels a heavy burden to provide

her the opportunities which he lacked. At the age of thirteen, he was incarcerated for the first time. Caleb's journey through the criminal justice system, his marginalization and ultimately his fatherhood, led him to pursue a joint master's degree in Public Policy and a JD in Law. He aspires "to become a public legislator on the state or federal level ...to reverse ...structural violence."

ELIZABETH McCOY, BA, MSW, 2011, 2013-2015, graduated from San Francisco State University in 2011 with a bachelor's degree in Psychology. She then studied social work at UC Berkeley and received her MSW degree in 2015. As the single mother of two, Elizabeth's commitment to her education encompasses both her dedication to being an example for her children, as well as her passionate interest in researching the issues of self-destructiveness and resilience in the aftermath of family dysfunction. Raised in an emotionally and psychologically challenging environment, Elizabeth's work and training have allowed her to use her past to shape her dedication to becoming both a professor of psychology and a clinical psychologist. Prior to earning her degree in social work, she served in Contra Costa County as an African American Health Conductor for the Center for Human Development as a re-entry specialist. In addition to her other duties, she developed a community garden to encourage healthy eating for her clients. She is the recipient of four New Leader scholarships.

LARRY McDANIEL JR, BA, MA, NLS Scholar 2015, 2017, received his BA in 2015 from UC Berkeley in Sociology after earning an AA degree from Peralta College. As he saw many of his friends falling victim to the challenges which face poor minority communities and finding himself struggling to survive, he vowed to dedicate himself to those with similar backgrounds. At Berkeley, he joined a student run organization Spread the Word which assists underperforming minority youth through advocacy and became president of the organization. He

earned a master's degree in Higher Education from the University of Pennsylvania and was accepted into the doctoral program in Higher Education and Organizational Change at UCLA. He aspires to become a university professor. Larry plans to do research that effects social structure with an emphasis on racial identity for community college transfer students who attend historically white universities. He received two New Leader scholarships.

ANDREA VARGAS-MENDOZA, BA, NLS Scholar 2001, graduated from UC Berkeley with a bachelor's degree in Rhetoric. She is a second generation Latina who began the process of giving back to her community through Student Success Workshops she designed and conducted in her high school in Castro Valley. She launched her Social Healing Project in three Bay Area high schools and created a website which linked her workshops to additional community resources. After years of working with her father as a community organizer in Oakland, Andrea decided to move to Santa Fe in order to pursue a career in art and maintain her close relationship to indigenous communities. She offers workshops to youngsters from working class families with the aim of increasing their awareness and pride in their identity.

CRISTINA MORA, BA, PhD, NLS Scholar 2001, graduated from UC Berkeley, majoring in Sociology with a minor in Public Policy. As a McNair Scholar, she completed her research on child sexual abuse in Latino communities. After graduating from Berkeley, Cristina earned a doctorate in sociology from Princeton and was a postdoctoral presidential fellow at the University of Chicago. Her much heralded book on Latin identification is considered by other educators to be both accessible and an excellent scholarly work and is widely used by other educators in the field. Cristina is currently an Associate Professor at UC Berkeley and is writing a second book. Despite her daunting schedule and the responsibility of two children, she continues to be a resource for other New Leader scholars.

ROBERTO MONICO, BA, NLS Scholar 2015-2017, graduated from UC Berkeley with a degree in Sociology, minoring in Ethnic Studies. He received his AA degree from Los Angeles City College. Roberto grew up with a widowed mother, the youngest of four siblings. He is a re-entry student who has received scholarships and fellowships from the Osher Re-Entry Program, UCLA Law Fellows, and the McNair Research Program. He has been inducted into the Alpha Kappa Delta Society, an honor society in sociology. Roberto has also volunteered with Prison Activist Resource Center and California Prison Focus. Roberto is currently enrolled in the master's degree program in the College of Ethnic Studies at San Francisco State University and hopes to earn a PhD to research and advocate for the formerly incarcerated. He received three New Leader scholarships.

TIFFANY MONTGOMERY, BS, MS, PhD, NLS Scholar 2003, 2012-2015, graduated from San Jose State University in 2003 with a bachelor of science in Nursing and a minor in African American Studies. She completed a master of science in Nursing at California State University, Dominguez Hills and a PhD at the University of California, Los Angeles. She is now in her final postdoctoral year in the National Clinician Scholars Program at the University of Pennsylvania, School of Medicine. Tiffany has received numerous honors including the induction into the Edward A. Bouchet Graduate Honor Society, National Black Nurses Association Under 40 Award, and the *Nursing for Women's Health* Reviewer of the Year Award. She has also held several leadership positions in the Association for Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses, including the Public Policy Committee, California Section Legislative Coordinator, and Convention Host Committee Chair. In 2011, Tiffany created a scholarship fund at her former high school for students interested in becoming nurses; to date, four scholarships have been awarded. Tiffany's research focuses on sexual and reproductive health disparities and the use of

mobile health technologies as an intervention for high-risk sexual behavior. Her long-term goal is to work as a nursing professor at a university that supports and encourages excellence in nursing education. She received five New Leader scholarships.

MAITRIA MOUA, BA, JD, NLS Scholar 2012-2016, graduated from UC Berkeley with a bachelor's degree in Political Science and Asian American Studies and received a law degree from UCLA in 2016. Growing up in the Central Valley of California near Fresno as a daughter of Hmong immigrants, Maitria hopes to return to the Central Valley as a public defender when her educational goals have been reached. As a student she has tutored elementary students through the Oakland Asian Students Educational Services, served as a council member to the Berkeley Student Cooperative and has volunteered for US Representative Barbara Lee. Through outreach experiences at UC Davis Law School and through Harvard's School of Government, her commitment to provide aid to disenfranchised communities has been reinforced. Maitria has spent two years working in state government as an attorney following her law studies from UCLA. She received five New Leader scholarships.

JAZMIN MORELAS, BA, MA, NLS Scholar 2008, graduated from San Francisco State University in 2009 with a degree in Communications and then earned a master's in Communications Studies in 2014. While born in the United States, she was raised in Mexico, and calls herself a "border baby" with hometowns of San Diego and Tijuana. Issues of acculturation, identity and immigration reform have been central to her work and community involvement. A community organizer at heart, she is concerned about the use of rhetoric to translate good ideas into easily understood language. In particular, immigration reforms, based on concepts of "truth and justice" that serve the underrepresented immigrant community, are critical to her. In 2008

she volunteered for a program on Berkeley's internet radio station called Vox Populi and gave interviews in Spanish.

CESAR MORENO, BA, NLS Scholar 2002, graduated from UC Berkeley with a BA in Political Science and History. As a young person growing up in the Bakersfield area, he worked in the fields with his family. His mother is still a farm worker. Cesar was awarded a Social Justice Fellowship at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University in the summer 2002 program. He spent the following year in Spain and Mexico in the UC Berkeley Study Abroad Program. Cesar has worked for the AFL-CIO as the Policy and Communications Analyst for the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, based in Washington, DC. He now works in the Human Resources division of the American Federation of Teachers in Washington.

JOSHUA NIELSEN-BALTODANO, BA, NLS Scholar 2011, 2012, is working at the US Department of Labor as a Workforce Program Specialist in the Support Division of the San Francisco Regional Office of the Job Corps. He received his American Studies BA Degree from UC Berkeley in 2013 and completed his honors thesis on the school-to-prison pipeline. Joshua was tracked in the third grade when he was placed into special education and eventually dropped out of high school. After experiencing the school-to-prison pipeline first hand, Joshua became a trainee at Job Corps Treasure Island. He then pursued his education and is now paying it forward in his new role. He was a fellow of the 2014 Boards and Commissions Leadership Institute cohort with Urban Habitat in Oakland. He is currently applying to graduate programs. He received two New Leader scholarships.

YESENIA OCAMPO, BA, NLS Scholar 2007, graduated from Berkeley with a degree in sociology. From a young age, Yesenia was drawn to both social justice and health. Coming from a family of farm workers, Yesenia learned firsthand about health disparities and social injustices

in low-income communities. She started at Bakersfield Community College before transferring to UC Berkeley. She explored her interests and career options doing volunteer work at the Children's Hospital Oakland. Yesenia has worked in the social services and health-care fields in the Central Valley and the East Bay area. Her previous work as a Wraparound Recovery Coordinator and Youth Health Services Manager integrated her passion in health with her passion for social justice. Before becoming the Deputy Director with the Dolores Huerta Foundation. Yesenia served as the Health Policy Manager, a position in which she oversaw health policy initiatives that promote health equity in the California Central Valley. Overseeing *Cultiva La Salud*, a program funded through the Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health from the Centers for Disease Control, to promote healthy eating and active living prompted an interest in pursuing a master's degree in Public Health and Regional Planning.

DIANA OLIVA, BA, MPH, NLS Scholar 2004, received her bachelor's degree from UC Berkeley with majors in Ethnic and Chicano Studies and an MPH from San Francisco State University. Growing up in a poor Salvadoran household, with parents who were war victims and political refugees, she was inspired by their activism. She has initiated and conducted research on environmentally caused illnesses in poor Latino communities in Oakland while simultaneously working with a number of youth groups to promote their interest in higher education. For two years, Diana worked with a variety of organizations throughout the Bay Area, focusing on high risk youth in health centers; she recently worked with a Native American Health Center in Oakland. Diana hopes to obtain a doctorate in public health with an emphasis in clinical management.

DANIEL PAREDES, BA, MA, NLS Scholar 2005, 2006, 2007, received his BA from UC Berkeley with majors in Political Science and Sociology in addition to a minor in Urban Planning. In 2007 he received a master's degree in Urban Planning from UCLA. He describes his high school years as turbulent and crisis-filled, leading to suspension and ultimately to school expulsion. An older brother and sister, along with a high school teacher, taught him how to work within the system. Daniel first became a mentee of the Academic Achievement Programs, then a peer mentor, and finally a Student Program Coordinator. While working twenty hours per week, he also interned at Berkeley's Center for Race and Gender and volunteered for the Big Brother/Big Sister Program on campus. He credits both parents, immigrants from Mexico, with teaching him the value of hard work. Daniel worked at an International Charter High School in Los Angeles, helping to prepare students for college and at the Youth Policy Institute. Daniel is now a Research Analyst for the SEIU-USWW. He received three New Leader scholarships.

JULIZA PEREZ, BA, NLS Scholar 2004, obtained her degree from UC Berkeley with majors in Mass Communications and Sociology. As a foster child who became emancipated, she was deeply involved with all of the programs that supported her own development. Having experienced considerable tragedy in her own family, Juliza made a special point of reaching out to others who have faced difficult circumstances. She continued to work with Extended Opportunities and Program Services and volunteered as a motivational speaker. In June 2004, Juliza was honored by the Department of Children and Family Services of Los Angeles County as a "Foster Care Hero". Before her death, Juliza planned to acquire a law degree and specialize in child advocacy within the foster care system.

KABRIA PERVOE, BA, NLS Scholar 2013, received her degree in Psychology from Berkeley. She plans to continue her work in psychology in graduate school. She is the first in her family to go to college and has been self-supporting since the age of sixteen. Her excellent grades led to a placement in the Sage Scholars Program at Berkeley. She is one of five children of a single parent and has two incarcerated brothers. She has volunteered as an ESL tutor, a literacy tutor, at the crisis line for domestic violence and Habitat for Humanity. Kabria went to Chile as part of the Study Abroad Program at UC Berkeley.

ABDULLAH PUCKETT, NLS Scholar 2017, is a senior at UC Berkeley, with a major in Political Economy and Interdisciplinary Studies. On his own since the age of sixteen, he was imprisoned from 1999 through 2014. Inspired by the election of Barack Obama in 2008, he saw that real change in society was more than a theoretical possibility. He initially wanted to become a community organizer like President Obama but began to realize that many more avenues were open to him through his studies. Abdullah felt that when ordinary people came together they could make extraordinary things happen. Inspired by him, his mother went back to school at the age of 47 and earned a doctorate in Pharmacy.

MELISSA RIVAS, BA, MA, NLS Scholar 2010, 2011, graduated from UC Berkeley with a degree in Sociology. After working to support herself, she returned to school to earn a master's degree in Higher Education at the University of Maryland, College Park. She was born in San Francisco, the daughter of a San Salvadoran immigrant who together with Melissa, has struggled to find the Latino American Dream. Melissa was an Outreach Intern for the Raza Recruitment and Retention Center and worked with "By Any Means Necessary" to give a voice to the Latino community. She hopes eventually to teach at the college level. Melissa has been a recipient of a

Next Generation Scholarship and has taught underserved middle school children through their program. She received two New Leader scholarships.

PRINCESS ROBINSON, BA, NLS Scholar 2008, graduated from UC Berkeley with a degree in Social Welfare and plans to earn graduate degrees in both Social Welfare and Public Policy. She grew up in foster care living in communities plagued by violence, poverty and drugs. Her feelings of powerlessness and absence of family support and positive role models in foster care led her to face obstacles on her own and increased her resilience. As an African American, impoverished, single parent with three children, she believes that she defied the odds. She is the first in her family of thirteen siblings to obtain a college degree. She has been a foster youth mentor for the past several years and volunteers for Team Up For Youth, an organization that teaches community organizing skills.

MARTHA LORENA ROCHA, BA, NLS Scholar 2006, has a BA from Berkeley with a double major in Sociology and Spanish. Her family emigrated from Mexico in 2002, hoping to find greater job opportunities in the US. Her parents work as field hands in Watsonville. Martha's desire to be the first in her family with a college education was shaped by the example of her parents' moral integrity and courage. A second source of her ambition to teach and provide counseling to educationally disadvantaged students, has come from her volunteer work with the EOP and Migrant Program at UCB. A McNair scholar, Martha studied at Carlos III University in Madrid in 2008. She is planning to pursue graduate work in Education.

NATALIE RUIZ, BA, NLS Scholar 2016 is a graduate of UC Berkeley with dual bachelor's degrees in Sociology and Social Welfare. As a non-traditional student, Natalie has dedicated herself to serving the student-parent community of UC Berkeley. Throughout her undergraduate career she directed and led a food-assistance program which provides almost daily food

donations to low income UCB students with children. She is the recipient of the Chancellor's Award for Civic Engagement, Peter E. Haas Public Service Award, and was most recently recognized by UC President Janet Napolitano for Outstanding Student Leadership. Her dedication to promoting equity among underserved students culminated in her senior honors thesis which examined the shortcomings of a bureaucratically organized system of financial aid and its impact on students with children. She graduated with Highest Honors from UC Berkeley in 2017 and plans to pursue a graduate degree in Public Policy or Law. Natalie now works as Program Coordinator for the Opportunity Institute, a nonprofit in Berkeley, California. As a member of the Opportunity and Justice division, she supports the *Renewing Communities Initiative* staff in their efforts to build pathways that shift individuals' lives away from the trajectory of criminal justice and towards social mobility.

FARHAD SALEHIAN, BA, NLS Scholar 2004, graduated from Berkeley in 2005 with majors in Inter-Disciplinary Studies and Peace and Conflict Studies. Emigrating from Iran with his parents in 1987, he grew up in a low income household, and is the first person to attend college in his family. While at Saddleback Community College, he was elected to student government where he began to develop his interest in conflict resolution. With his mentor at Berkeley, he developed a campus-wide mechanism to address inter-student conflict. He received the Kenneth Priestley Award for "outstanding student leadership and invaluable contributions to student welfare", an award given to only one student in the graduating class. For two summers, he participated in the Caux Scholars Program in Caux Switzerland, which brings together approximately twenty students from around the world to study conflict resolution intensively. After acquiring American citizenship, he returned to Iran for the first time. For many years, he was an Account Manager at the "Give Something Back" office supply company in the Bay Area. The company

donates the majority of its profits to charities and nonprofits. Farhad has opened his own service business in the Bay Area.

MELISSA LAURA SAN MIGUEL, BA, NLS Scholar 2005, graduated from UC Berkeley with a degree in Political Science. In 2008 she gave the valedictory address to political science majors. In 2009 she was awarded an education fellowship by the state of California and worked for the Department of Education in Sacramento for two years. Through her work and volunteer activities with nonprofits, such as Hispanics in Philanthropy, she has gained a great deal of experience in the non-profit sector. In 2007 Melissa was awarded a summer fellowship at UC Berkeley's Goldman Institute in Public Policy and International Affairs. Following the fellowship, Melissa worked for an educational nonprofit organization that advocates for changes in legislation that will close the achievement gap for low income students and students of color. Melissa was part of the external relations team which meets with legislators in Sacramento to effect changes in legislation. In 2016, Melissa ran for a position as a County Supervisor in the ninth district of San Francisco which encompasses the area where she and her family have always lived.

SAMORN SELIM, BA, JD, NLS Scholar 2004-2008, received her BA in 2004 and her JD in 2008, from UC Berkeley. Her family and older siblings immigrated to the United States from Laos due to political and economic oppression. Prior to her acceptance to law school at Berkeley, she volunteered extensively at Hospice and the San Joaquin County Superior Court Family Law Center and simultaneously developed a program to teach life skills to high school students. Samorn was awarded several scholarships for her outstanding academic performance, while also coordinating the Berkeley Law Foundation Phoenix Fellowship. She worked for one summer at the Federal Trade Commission in Washington, DC on consumer rights issues and in 2008 she

served as a law clerk extern for a federal court judge in San Francisco. In the summer of 2009 she engaged in human rights work in Laos and Thailand. Samorn is fluent in Thai, Laotian and American Sign Language. She worked for three years as an attorney for a national firm that emphasizes pro bono public interest work and diversity to pay off her student debt. Samorn has gone on to provide employment counseling to law school students at UC Berkeley, UC Hastings and Golden Gate University. In 2016, she decided to offer the same services independently. She is the recipient of five New Leader scholarships.

CHRISTYNA SERRANO-CRENSHAW, BA, PhD, NLS Scholar 2007-2013, received her BA from UC Berkeley in Sociology and Social Welfare. She completed her PhD at Berkeley's School of Education in 2017. While born in the United States, she lived in Puerto Rico until age eleven and then returned permanently to the United States. At age twenty, she was awarded a full athletic scholarship to Berkeley but concentrated more on athletics than academics causing her to leave school. Following a seven-year hiatus, she successfully re-entered, then as a single parent. As a woman of color, from an impoverished background, she is dedicated to helping others like herself. She has served on several university-wide committees, including the Chancellor's Advisory Committee for Dependent Care and has been a student member of a university academic senate committee on the Status of Women and Ethnic Minorities in Higher Education . She has been honored for her work as instructor for the prestigious course on critical thinking in the school of education. Christyna has been awarded the Chancellor's Fellowship for Graduate Study, a fellowship which is given to a small number of students university-wide. In recent years, she turned her attention to nutrition and poverty as seen through the lens of the school lunch program. Christyna and her family have moved to Hawaii where she teaches at a community college and plans an academic career. She received seven New Leader scholarships.

SHAHIN SHAMSABADI, BA, MA, NLS Scholar 2003, received his BA from Berkeley, with a major in Middle Eastern Studies. Shahin describes himself as the “product of four cultural backgrounds, two races, two religions and five languages “between himself and his parents, who emigrated from Iran because of religious and social persecution. In a post 9/11 world, Shahin became an active spokesperson for Middle Eastern, Muslim and Sikh students on campus who face a variety of prejudicial behaviors directed at them. While at Berkeley, he was the recipient of numerous awards and honors in International Studies. He received his master’s degree from Georgetown University in Arab Studies at the Center for Contemporary Arab Studies. He hopes to become a diplomat. He and his wife live and work in Dubai, where he heads Middle East casework for the Risk Advisory Group.

DELANE SIMS, BA, NLS Scholar 2011, received her degree in American Studies with an emphasis on social justice for seniors in 2011. She was born to a schizophrenic mother in a psychiatric facility and experienced a turbulent young adulthood as a single mother who was sometimes homeless. Delane persevered and stayed committed to making a difference in her community, particularly for seniors. Since 2005 she has nurtured the organization she created, Senior Moments that identifies and provides services to seniors who are homebound and disabled. For this work, she received the prestigious Jefferson Award and several grants from local chambers of commerce. She also provides service to the community through the Lion’s Club and as a Death Penalty Focus Board Member. She spent a summer in Washington, DC advocating for changes in the legislation regarding incarceration of juveniles and working on health care issues for the elderly. Since her graduation, Delane has created a second organization dedicated to training young black women with backgrounds similar to hers as beauticians. She became a New Leader Scholar when inspired by her younger sister, Rue Mapp.

KARINA SOLIS, BA, NLS Scholar 2012, graduated from UC Berkeley with a major in Sociology. Karina is interested in the intersectionality of race, class and gender. As a young Latina with Mexican immigrant parents, Karina is the first in her family of eight siblings to attend college and hopes to serve as a positive role model in her community. In addition to her studies, Karina tutored San Quentin Prison inmates, served as an advocate for Survivors of Sexual Assault and has been a mentor. She is also involved in the Berkeley Student Cooperative and is currently developing the framework for her long term comparative research project.

Karina spent a period of time studying abroad in the Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg.

AYANNA SPIKES, BA, NLS Scholar 2008, was born in Berkeley to a thirteen year old mother, the child of rape. Her grandmother strongly opposed abortion so her mother had no choice but to give birth. Raised first by her grandparents, then in foster homes and finally in group foster care, Ayanna's adolescence was turbulent. Like her mother, she became pregnant as a teenager and was unable to earn her high school diploma. She believes that "early motherhood, little job skills, and being on welfare" led to her "becoming involved in criminal activities to survive." She was imprisoned and lost custody of her son but met this challenge by earning her GED while incarcerated. In 2009 she interned in the juvenile division of Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia. She graduated from UC Berkeley with a degree in Psychology and a minor in Education. She raised two teenagers into adulthood as a single parent and refused to allow her past to define her future. Ayanna is a District/Regional Chair overseeing the interviews of incoming freshman for the Leadership Award through the Cal Alumni Association. She works for the California Development Department as a Program Technician III Lead. She is also a Board Member at Sobriety Brings a Change in Sacramento, California which is an Outpatient Treatment Program for Youth and Adults.

TAMRIN STEWART, BA, NLS Scholar 2015, received her BA degree from UC Berkeley with a major in Political Science and African American Studies. From the time that she enrolled at Berkeley as a freshman, she has been engaged in various community service projects and leadership activities. She was selected by the Posse Scholars Program from hundreds of applicants and was in the VeVe Clark Institute of Scholars program which supports the most promising African American Studies majors in preparation for graduate school. She has mentored and tutored students at Berkeley High School and was program coordinator at Stiles Hall to help recruit and assist underrepresented college seniors in applying to UC Berkeley.

SARAH THIBAUT, BA, MSW, NLS Scholar 2007-2009, graduated from San Francisco State University with a BA in Anthropology and completed a master's degree in the School of Social Welfare at UC Berkeley. Raised by her single working class mother because of the incarceration of her father, she endured severe economic and political hardships. After leaving home and high school at an early age and experiencing serial trauma and homelessness, Sarah was offered the opportunity to continue her education after several years through Project Rebound, a program designed to assist those who have been incarcerated. While a student at SFSU, she worked nearly fulltime with unhoused youth and managed to volunteer time for Food not Bombs and Black Mesa Indigenous Support. Her own experience of being marginalized has shaped her motivation to work with populations including unhoused people, LGBTQQI people, and survivors of historical and contemporary trauma. She has worked with street outreach programs, supportive housing providers, the San Francisco Dept. of Public Health, syringe access programs, medical clinics focusing on assisting unhoused people, and innovative substance use treatment programs. She currently serves as a Clinical Social Worker at Sonoma County Indian Health Project and provides online therapy via Betterhelp. Sarah is an ACE Interface Master Trainer, QPR

Gatekeeper Instructor, certified HIV test counselor, and formerly served on the San Francisco Mayor's Office Hepatitis C Task Force and the board of the Homeless Youth Alliance. In 2017 she received the Sonoma County Commission on AIDS Marshal Kubota Distinguished Service Award. Her work has been published in *From the Front Lines: Student Cases in Social Work Ethics (4th Edition)*. She received three New Leader scholarships.

AMIA TRIGG, BA, MPP, JD, NLS Scholar 2005, graduated from UC Berkeley with a double major in Psychology and African American Studies. Experiencing the early loss of both parents and being raised by her grandparents in Las Vegas, shaped her concept of how to help others. Her grandfather became heroic in her eyes through his capacity to overcome great poverty and discrimination while encouraging her to pursue her dreams. She was the president of the Black Pre-Law Society on campus and volunteered for Alameda County Pre-Trial Services. Her emphasis is on remedying inherent discriminatory practices within the legal system. Amia completed both a JD at Harvard Law School and a master's of Public Policy Program at Harvard's Kennedy School. While at Harvard, she was the co-chair of the Black Law Student's Mentorship Program which encourages high school students to continue their education. Amia clerked for U.S. District Judge of the Southern District of New York and the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. She then joined Attorney General Eric Holder's law firm, Covington and Burling. Amia has applied to become a public defender in Washington, DC.

NGAN TRAN, BA, MA, NLS Scholar 2004, was born in Vietnam and came to the United States with her mother, brother and grandmother in 1994. She graduated from UC Berkeley with a degree in Sociology after spending the fall semester of her senior year, studying and undertaking sociological research in Vietnam. A summer internship with NOW inspired her to be an advocate for issues affecting women and disadvantaged groups. She co-founded a mentoring program for

low income, inner city youth in the Oakland public school system. She received her master's degree in Public Policy from California State University, Sacramento. Ngan was a recipient of the Achievement Award Program sponsored by alumni of UCB and currently is the chair of the Sacramento scholarship committee of UCB. She works as a program and research analyst for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and helps to coordinate research for evidence-based practice for the California State Legislature.

KHANH TRAN, NLS Scholar 2017, is in his fourth year at San Francisco State University with a double major in Biology and Asian American Studies. Khanh immigrated to the US from Vietnam with his mother as a six-year-old child. While his family felt liberated from communism, life in the United States was far from easy. The struggle for economic survival required his mother to work long hours and left Khanh feeling lonely. As a teenager, he struggled with his identity until helped to understand his dilemma by high school teachers. His discovery of a path through education led him to major in biology. However, not until he took a second major in Asian American Studies was he able to combine a sense of community with his science interests. His goal is to pursue a PhD in Ethnic Studies and research intersectionality to bridge the gap between science education and cultural identity. He holds several positions in Student Affairs and Enrollment Management office, Asian American Studies and within the Center of Science and Mathematics Education at SFSU. Khanh also serves his community through the Pinoy/Pinay Educational Partnership (PEP), where he teaches Filipino American History to high school students.

VANNA TRUONG, BA, NLS Scholar 2005, graduated with a degree in Sociology and Business from UC Berkeley. She and her extended family immigrated to the United States, after the political and economic turmoil of the Vietnamese war. She is the co-founder of two

organizations dedicated to mentoring and providing leadership training for low income minority youth. With the help of a mentor, she was able to realize her leadership potential and find a better alternative than becoming part of the violent drug culture which surrounded her. Vanna has a passionate commitment to help others avoid the cycle of poverty and disillusionment which were part of her own background. Following her graduation, she went on to join Wells Fargo Bank and has become Senior Vice President at Harvest.

MICHAEL TSIA,BA, MPP, New Leader Scholar 2004, graduated with majors in political science and business administration from UC Berkeley. He was active in a number of campus activities including Peer Advisor in the residence halls and was president of the Undergraduate Political Science Association. His family was illegally evicted and became destitute when he was only eight. This experience made Michael a committed advocate of tenants' rights. While in college, Michael created a Housing Advocacy Group, dedicated to educating students about the importance of rent ordinances and housing boards. He completed his master's in Public Policy at Harvard's Kennedy School. Michael works for a management consultant firm in California and is dedicated to improving health care delivery in the United States. He has received two New Leader Scholarships.

SVETLANA LUNSKAYA VAHAB, BA, JD, NLS Scholar 2002, 2004-2006, graduated from law school at UC Berkeley, after being an exchange student at Harvard Law School for her third year. She and her family emigrated from Russia in 1991 to escape institutionalized anti-Semitism. Svetlana graduated with high honors from UC Berkeley in 2003 earning a bachelor's degree in the Economics of Industrial Societies. As both an undergraduate and law school student, she has volunteered her services to human rights organizations. While an undergraduate,

she worked to help Latino prisoners be released on their own recognizance. She worked with the California Asylum Rights Clinic and once again joined her skills as a fluent Spanish speaker with her skills as a law student to help families from Latin America seek asylum in the United States. Lana worked at the Department of Justice in the Office of Immigration Litigation for several years but recently transferred to the State Department. She was the first scholar to be awarded a scholarship for graduate school. She received four New Leader scholarships.

RICARDO VALENCIA, BA, MA, NLS scholar 2004-2005, graduated from UC Berkeley with a bachelor's degree in Ethnic Studies and a minor in Education after spending a semester studying in Brazil. As a McNair Scholar, a program which prepares underrepresented students of color to pursue doctoral studies, he was able to undertake research preparing him for graduate school in an educational leadership program. His experiences growing up below the poverty line shaped his commitment to issues of social justice and led to a summer educational internship with an Iron Worker's Union in Sacramento. He completed a one-year fellowship with the Greenlining Institute, a multi-ethnic institute and focused on issues that affect low-income communities of color. Ricardo completed his master's program in Educational Leadership at Tufts University. He taught Ethnic Studies and History in a pilot public high school in Boston for two years that emphasizes collaboration between the faculty and its underserved community. His dream came true when he was recruited to return to his community of Santa Maria and teach in the high school that became his touchstone for believing he could become an educator and provide leadership to underserved students of color. Ricardo reintroduced a very well received course in Ethnic Studies that has gained wide popularity. Ricardo has received two New Leader Scholarships.

JANELLI VALLIN, BA, NLS Scholar 2016, 2017, graduated from UC Berkeley with a degree in Public Health. Her long term aim is to obtain a medical degree, emphasizing a holistic approach to medicine. Toward that goal, she has spent two summers interning at a children's hospital in Beijing. Janelli is fluent in both Mandarin and Spanish and hopes to become a global health leader for those who cannot advocate for themselves. She is currently enrolled in the master's program in Global Health Sciences at UCSF as her first step toward acquiring a medical degree. As a first generation college student from a poor Latino community, she believes that it is both her privilege and her responsibility to devote her life to work with underserved communities. She received two New Leader scholarships.

JONATHAN VERDUGO, BA, NLS Scholar 2014, 2015, completed his degree in political science at UC Berkeley in 2015. Jonathan became a father at age nineteen, permanently transforming his life with a promise to himself that he would provide his own son with the life and father that he never had. Growing up in San Diego, he experienced racial profiling and its impact on self-esteem. He found himself embroiled with the juvenile justice system, occasionally homeless, feeling invisible and believing that there were no programs to help him reach for a successful future. One of his brothers was imprisoned which promoted his desire to search for a different path. He plans to attend law school and ultimately work as a public defender. His focus is on issues of illegal search and seizure procedures and their impact on the youth of a community. He received two New Leader scholarships.

KEVIN WILLIAMS, BA, NLS Scholar 2012, graduated from UC Berkeley with a bachelor's degree in American Studies and a minor in African American Studies. Raised in the low income black neighborhoods of Oakland, California by a single mother, Kevin experienced additional challenges when he became a foster child. His determination to get an education and "defy the

statistics” of his community inspired him to serve as the only high school student on the Student Attendance Review Board of the Pittsburg Unified School District. Kevin served as the Northern California Recruitment Coordinator for the Black Recruitment and Retention Center. Kevin has also served as the only African-American senator for the Associated Students of the University of California where he was able to enact policies and fund events to help disadvantaged student groups.

ARIANNA M. WOOD, NLS Scholar 2017, is currently a third year undergraduate student at San Francisco State University. As the sixteen year old daughter of Jamaican immigrants, Arianna saw firsthand the power of an inequitable immigration system when her father was taken from their home. The subsequent loss of their home and the move into a hotel for the duration of her high school years deeply affected her future goals. As a student in the Metro Academy at San Francisco State, her real life experiences were reinforced and supported by learning about the realities faced by minority communities. She is currently pursuing her bachelor’s degree in Health Education with plans to obtain a master’s degree in Nursing. She plans to work on programs that incorporate environmental and institutional factors into the practice of preventive medicine.

AREZO YAZD, BA, JD, NLS Scholar 2003, 2004, 2006 –2008, earned both her BA and JD degrees from UC Berkeley, after majoring in Political Science and Middle East Studies as an undergraduate. Born in Iran, imprisoned with her mother as a baby, she emigrated here with her family in 1984, when forcefully expelled due to her mother’s Kurdish ancestry and political activism. Arezo is the first woman in her family to attend college and as a Kurd Muslim woman, she was deeply involved in a number of organizations that help recent immigrants. She has volunteered for Survivors International, the East Bay Sanctuary and has worked with the Kurdish

Youth Forum. She served as a Communications Fellow for the U.S. Women without Borders Campaign under the Women's Funding Network. Her role was to build support for women that were the victims of sex trafficking and who were seeking asylum under the Gender Asylum and Recovery Project. She was the executive editor of the Berkeley Journal of International Law and editor in chief of the Middle East and Islamic Law Journal in addition to serving on a number of student boards while at UCB. In 2008, she externed for the Senate Judiciary Committee, working on the staff of Senator Russell Feingold and then worked for Human Rights Watch in Washington, DC. She is an attorney in the US Department of Commerce and the recipient of five New Leader scholarships.

For more information and updates on the New Leader Scholars go to www.newleaderscholarship.org.