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65 Students' Exceptional Academic and Community Achievements honored at *Abriendo Puertas* (Opening Doors) Celebration.

Latino Memphis' College Access program encourages young people to build their future through academics while serving their community through volunteering.

(MEMPHIS, TENN – May 18, 2016) A very special group of 65 young people will be honored this Thursday for investing in themselves and their communities. These students come from five different Memphis-area high schools, Kingsbury, Cordova, Ridgeway, Overton and Southwind, and will be the focus of Latino Memphis' year-end celebration dinner this Thursday, May 19 at 5:30 p.m. at Southwest Tennessee Community College, 5983 Macon Cove, Memphis, TN 38134.

"The motivation and care I see in these young folks is absolutely amazing," said Mauricio Calvo, Executive Director, Latino Memphis. "They took this program and got absolutely everything they could out of it. The world is going to want to look out for them, and Memphis should be very proud to call them our own."

The students are part of Latino Memphis' *Abriendo Puertas* (Opening Doors), College Access program. These students have spent more than a year attending weekly educational sessions and various workshops to better prepare themselves for college, while also finding time to volunteer, work in community projects and participate in a state wide advocacy campaign.

The dinner will honor all students in the program, including new juniors and up-and-coming seniors. Some students will participate in internships this summer before returning to continue the program before graduating in fall of 2017.

"We're beaming with pride about what all our students have accomplished so far," Calvo said, "and we can't wait to continue to watch these amazing people as they strive to accomplish their career goals."

About Latino Memphis

Over the past 20 years, Latino Memphis has become the go-to organization for issues impacting the Hispanic community in the Mid-South, raising the voice of Latinos in our region and advocating for a better, more inclusive Memphis. The agency connects thousands of clients each year to needed services in the areas of health, education and justice. The work of Latino Memphis is a collective approach that aims to create a vibrant Latino middle class in Memphis; a concept that will not only impact Latinos, but the entire community.



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