

PRESS RELEASE

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Lynwood Unified Dreamers Unlock Potential, Inspired to Achieve College Dreams

Annual Conference Showcases College Access Opportunities

LYNWOOD, CA – Dreamer students from Lynwood Unified School District were empowered with vital support, resources and the inspiration to chase their higher education aspirations during the District's annual [Dreamers Conference](#) on April 19, dedicated to the memory of former California Assemblyman and immigrant rights and education trailblazer, Marco Antonio Firebaugh.

During the conference, now in its eighth year, Lynwood and Firebaugh high schools students heard from inspiring speakers Andrew Roldan, a Lynwood alumnus, community leader Francisco Moreno and entrepreneur Vincent Ortiz, who shared their moving stories and firsthand advice on navigating challenges as undocumented students, known as Dreamers. Informative workshops covered the misconceptions about college access, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), financial aid and scholarships. Students also accessed financial, legal and health resources.

"This event is made to empower DACA and undocumented students and give them many resources for their future college choices," said senior Kayleen Martinez, president of the Dreamers Club at Firebaugh High School and an aspiring immigration lawyer.

"I hope the students who attended today find their voice and explore their opportunities through the different college resources here," she said. "I want these students to know not to give up and there's always someone you can talk to. You can go to college."

AB540, passed in 2001, holds significance as a pivotal piece of legislation championed by the late assemblyman, after whom Firebaugh High School is named. The historic law allows undocumented California high school graduates to benefit from in-state college tuition rates, opening doors to higher education for many deserving students.

Students concluded the event with a lively lunch session, where they networked with clubs and organizations that support their journeys at Lynwood Unified, such as the Los Angeles Department of Mental Health, Immigrant Student Success, Cerritos College and Lynwood High School United Dreamers.

"The annual Marco Antonio Firebaugh Memorial Dreamers Conference embodies our District's resolute dedication to supporting and empowering all students," Superintendent Gudiel R Crosthwaite, Ph.D. said.

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“We envision this event as a catalyst for them to unlock their utmost potential, both academically and personally, and pursue their higher education dreams.”

PHOTO CAPTIONS:

LUSD_DREAMERS_1: Students from Lynwood and Firebaugh high schools attend the annual Marco Antonio Firebaugh Memorial Dreamers Conference on April 19, where they participated in informative workshops and learned about college access and financial aid opportunities available to undocumented students.






LUSD_DREAMERS_2: Lynwood and Firebaugh high school students heard stories from inspirational speakers, who offered advice on navigating challenges as undocumented students, known as Dreamers, during the eighth annual Marco Antonio Firebaugh Memorial Dreamers Conference on April 19.

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The mission of Lynwood Unified School District, the model urban school district, is to ensure each student fearlessly achieves their highest academic and personal aspirations while contributing to a diverse, global society through an evolving system distinguished by:

★ *People of great character who inspire and lead by example* ★ *The instilling of courage to be creative* ★ *The transformative uses of technology*
★ *Safe and clean environments* ★ *The inclusion of all voices in our community through equity, access and justice*

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