



# WHITTIER UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

*To Achieve and Maintain Excellence...*

NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** March 19, 2026 **CONTACT:** Andrea Garcia **PHONE:** 909-447-2403

## Santa Fe High School Posse Scholar Receives Award of Merit for Dedication to Education

**WHITTIER** – Prior to entering school as a freshman, Santa Fe High School senior Itzel Iniguez, looking for better educational opportunities, made the decision to commute from her home in South Gate to Santa Fe Springs. Iniguez took advantage of everything Santa Fe had to offer, rapidly developing into a scholar-athlete, campus leader, and role model.

Iniguez, who boasts a 4.38 GPA, has won numerous awards at Santa Fe, including the Principal's Honor Roll for seven consecutive semesters, Student of the Year as a junior, the Coaches Award and Chieftain Cheer Award for her leadership and spirit, and the Service Learning Award for completing more than 50 hours of community service.

Earlier this year, Iniguez received her most valuable award, when she was named a Posse Foundation scholar, receiving a full tuition scholarship to attend Pepperdine University, where she plans to study biology.

For Iniguez's dedication to furthering her education and ability to rise to life's challenges, the Whittier Union Board of Trustees presented her with an Award of Merit during the March 10 Board meeting.

"It's an honor to be here today to receive this award," Iniguez said. "Being a Chief has taught me the value of dedication, leadership, and community. I am proud to have contributed to our campus spirit through not only athletics but also clubs and academics. Santa Fe is my second home and holds a special place in my heart. Thank you to everyone who has provided me guidance, kindness, love and support."

Iniguez began her journey at Santa Fe after an aunt who lives in Norwalk recommended that she go to high school in Santa Fe Springs. Iniguez quickly got involved in a wide range of extracurricular activities and electives. She joined the Advancement Via Individual Determination college prep program as a freshman, as well as the Interact Club, which she now serves as president.

As a freshman, Iniguez also joined Santa Fe's Cheer team, developing into one of the school's top cheerleaders, ascending to Varsity Cheer Captain as a senior and earning recognition as a CIF champion and national championship winner. Iniguez also competes in STUNT, where she served as Varsity captain as a junior.

Iniguez's biggest impact at Santa Fe may be as a community service volunteer. Since coming to Santa Fe, Iniguez has volunteered at local elementary schools, chaperoned field trips, and assisted teachers in the classroom.

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Iniguez has served foster care youth at Christmas parties and raised funds for indigenous artists through her work at the Pulsera Project, where she also helped to translate for Spanish-speaking families. Most recently, Iniguez volunteered more than 45 hours at PIH Hospital, transporting patients and delivering meals.

"Itzel has a strong work ethic, incredible personality, drive, and unparalleled desire for success," Santa Fe High Principal Craig Campbell said during the meeting. "We know that Itzel will be successful in whatever path she takes. We are so proud of her. Itzel is an amazing young woman that exemplifies everything we want from a Santa Fe High graduate."

### PHOTO CAPTION

**WUHSD\_AWARD1:** Santa Fe High School senior Itzel Iniguez was recognized by the Whittier Union Board of Trustees at the March 10 meeting for her dedication to furthering her education and her resilience in overcoming life's challenges.

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#### OUR MISSION

The Whittier Union High School District provides all students with an engaging, quality standards-based instructional program delivered by a well-trained staff resulting in improved student achievement. Whittier Union High School District works to achieve and maintain excellence in providing a comprehensive education for all students.

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