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## NEWS RELEASE

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**CONTACT:** Katie Emerson  
(909) 324-0345

### **Covina-Valley Unified Senior Named Edison Scholar, Launching Toward Career in Astronautical Engineering**

**COVINA, CA** – Northview High School senior Valerie Chavez is reaching for the stars, turning her passion for astronautical engineering and rocketry into reality after being named an Edison Scholar and receiving the prestigious \$50,000 scholarship.

Each year, Edison International awards the competitive scholarship to only 30 high school seniors across Southern California, helping them pursue a future in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) and make an impact in their communities.

What began as a routine student meeting quickly became the surprise of a lifetime for Chavez when Edison International leaders announced she had been selected as an Edison Scholar in front of her family and school community.

“It was a complete surprise,” Chavez said. “I had a million thoughts going through my head when they called my name. Receiving this scholarship means so much to me because now I have the freedom to choose a college based on the programs I believe in, rather than financial limitations.”

Chavez plans to attend the University of Southern California in the fall, where she will major in astronautical engineering and participate in the university’s renowned rocketry program. Her ultimate goal is to design rockets and spacecraft for NASA or the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, helping advance scientific discovery and space exploration.

“I’ve loved science ever since I was little, especially anything related to space, rockets, and satellites,” Chavez said. “I want to use what I learn to help solve real-world problems and create opportunities for others.”

At Northview High, Chavez co-founded and serves as co-president of the school’s robotics and engineering club with her friend Christopher Berumen to create opportunities for students interested in STEM. She is also an active member of the ACE Mentor Program, plays saxophone in the marching band, and founded the school’s Travel Club.

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In addition to her extracurricular involvement, Chavez is currently enrolled in five Advanced Placement (AP) courses and will have completed 12 AP classes by graduation. She also volunteers regularly in her community.

“My favorite part of high school has been making friends and lasting memories,” Chavez said. “I’m also incredibly grateful for my mom, dad, and little sister who have each loved and supported me throughout my journey. I wouldn’t be where I am today without my friends and family.”

Chavez said she encourages all students to apply for scholarship opportunities, even if they seem out of reach.

“Valerie’s achievement is a powerful example of what happens when talent, determination, and opportunity come together,” Superintendent Dr. Jonathan Blackmore said. “We are excited to see the impact that she will continue to make, whether launching rockets, advancing technology, or inspiring the next generation of engineers.”

#### **PHOTO CAPTIONS:**

**CVUSD\_CHAVEZ1:** Northview High School senior Valerie Chavez was named an Edison Scholar and awarded a \$50,000 scholarship, turning her passion for aeronautical engineering and rocketry into a reality.

**CVUSD\_CHAVEZ2:** Northview High School senior Valerie Chavez’s ultimate goal is to design rockets and spacecraft for NASA or the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, helping advance scientific discovery and space exploration.

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