



Guided by our interest in promoting stronger involvement in our schools and investment in our children, each year **BerwynC.A.R.E.S.** awards scholarships to Morton West High School students headed to college. Due to generous contributions from our community and membership, we were able to award five scholarships this year. We are honored to announce the 2009 recipients and their achievements below:

Congratulations Christina Mendez!

Christina Mendez is ranked 9th in her class. She scored a 27 on the ACT and has a GPA of 4.3. Her long list of School and Community Activities includes Varsity Tennis, Mathletes, National Honor Society Treasurer, Ronald McDonald House Volunteer and Homeless Shelter volunteer. She is an Illinois State Scholar and has received several academic achievement awards. She plans to attend U of I Urbana-Champaign to major in Psychology with a minor in Chemistry. She has been accepted to the pre-professional medicine program and intends to go to medical school to become a surgeon. She was inspired to pursue a medical career by witnessing her younger sister endure open-heart surgery for a heart defect. In her application she wrote, "My younger sister had to have open heart surgery as an infant and ever since the doctors saved her life, changing my life for the better, I have dreamt of doing the same for someone else in the world." Congratulations to Christina and her parents, Nikola and Luis!

Congratulations Justin Gonzalez!

Justin ranked 29th in his class with an ACT score of 25 and a GPA of 3.976. School activities include Operation Snowball, National Honor Society, Swimming and Volleyball. He participated in Walk for Hope and Relay for Life. He has been in the top 25 for 2 years and has been named an Illinois State Scholar. He has been accepted at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a tentative major in Elementary Education. When asked about his career plans, he responded, "I want to teach around the place I grew up, because I have really grown to love the kids in my community. This way I can give back to the community that has given so much to me." His participation in operation Snowball and his work as a Summer Camp Counselor and After-Care Counselor inspired him to pursue education as a career. "Both organizations allow me to make a difference in the lives of others. I want to continue to make a difference in the lives of others, while doing something that I love; the best way to do that is by becoming a teacher." Congratulations to Justin and his parents Guadalupe and Jaime!

Congratulations Allison Demes!

Allison ranked 4th in her class with a score of 34 on her ACT and a 4.571 GPA. School activities include Mathletes, Scholastic Bowl, National Honor Society and Awaken Your Mind. She participated in the St. Leonard Youth Ministry and volunteered at Loyola Hospital and Mindful Practices. She has been named in the Top 25, National Merit Scholar, Illinois State Scholar and placed on the High Honor Roll. She plans to attend the University of Chicago to major in English and would like to one day become an English teacher. She has six younger siblings. In her application she wrote, "In addition to my community and school responsibilities, I spend time with them." Congratulations to Allison and her parents, Christy and William!

Congratulations Monica Hernandez!

Monica is ranked 22nd in her class with an ACT score of 22 and a GPA of 4.2. Her school activities include Student Council (President this year), National Honor Society, and Softball. She participates in a Youth Group, Parish Council and she is a Religious Education Aide at her church. She has been honored as a Top 25 and Student of the Month. She will attend Dominican University (where her older sister is a student) to study Architecture and Italian and would like to one day own her own architecture company. In her application she wrote about some unique family circumstances that add to the already stressful conditions that come with paying for college education. "My sister and I are doing what we can to get a college education regardless of the hardships we are experiencing." Congratulations to Monica and her parents, Maria and Jesus!

Congratulations Joseph Rodriguez!

Joseph ranks 42nd in his class with an ACT composite of 25 and a 3.83 GPA. School activities include Football, Track, National Honor Society, Awaken Your Mind, Mathletes, Italian Club and Theater. Community activities include PADS, Crop Walk, Walk-a-Thon, and helping with the St. Mary of Celle Good Pantry. He is an Illinois State Scholar and has been named in the Gold and Silver Honor Rolls. He took 1st place in the Pole Vault Conference and 2nd place as a Relay Vault. He is a captain of the Track Team. He has been accepted to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to major in Civil Engineering with a minor in Chinese or Business Management. In his application he wrote, " I am an individual that takes complete joy and pleasure in living my life to the fullest and utilizing my time. I play guitar, piano, bass, ukulele and I sing. I also play in an acoustic duo (currently unnamed). I am also an artist through hair, drawing, painting, acting and dance. I love meeting new people and exploring new activities and aspects of life. I am open minded and love expressing creativity with utter passion." Congratulations to Joseph and his parents, Cynthia and Juan!

About Berwyn C.A.R.E.S.

Berwyn C.A.R.E.S. (Citizens Aligned to Renew Education for Students) is an organization created to unite residents interested in renewing and sustaining an enthusiasm, interest and passion for the education system in Berwyn. Become a member and connect yourself with the center of education in Berwyn. Learn more at www.BerwynCARES.org.