



## Jennifer Ramirez Wins Gates Millennium Scholarship

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Millennium Scholars Program recognizes high-achieving students of color in need of monetary assistance who show academic and leadership promise. Only 1,000 students in the U.S. receive this much-sought-after scholarship annually (more than 20,000 apply). It is an extraordinary award that makes it possible for a student to “fulfill their educational dreams free of financial burden” in the fields of health, science and education.

How does it make this dream possible? By paying for everything – tuition, books and living expenses – at any school of the student’s choice, including graduate studies if pursued in the covered majors.

Paramount High School has developed quite a track record of producing Gates Scholars over the last few years. Now, another Pirate grad has joined the roster of eight previous winners (a remarkable number for one individual high school out of the entire country).

Jennifer Ramirez has been named to the Millennium Scholars Program from the Class of 2011. She will be attending UCLA in the fall.

She has just finished a high school career full of achievement: 4.0 GPA; Upward Bound Math/Science program at El Camino College; member of PHS Leadership, Corsairs Service Club, Future Homemakers of America, Pirates of the Kingdom Christian Student Club and Interact Service Club; Hugh O’Brian Youth Leadership Seminar Ambassador; member of the water polo team and captain of the varsity tennis team; and more.

Ramirez was also named a Coca-Cola Scholar, one of the largest corporate-sponsored, achievement-based scholarship programs in the U.S. The company flew her to Atlanta for an all-expenses-paid weekend that included an interview. She went on to become one of 250 winners out of 71,000 applicants.

That winning streak continued in a huge way with the Gates program. After an extensive application and interview process that included writing eight essays, the day finally came when all the work paid off for Ramirez. “I received a big envelope in the mail and jumped up and down when I read that I was a Gates Millennium Scholarship recipient,” she said. “My eyes filled with tears and I called my parents and siblings to share the good news. That was the day the Lord let down an enormous amount of his grace upon me.”

“This scholarship is a huge blessing in my life. It will cover my education from start to finish, and I am definitely going to put it to good use.”

With a passion for both science and the performing arts, her studies will delve into both areas. “I’ll double major in biology and communications to satisfy two of my biggest interests. Not only do I enjoy learning about the sciences and about life, but I also love public speaking, singing and acting. After that, I plan to get a master’s and a PhD in public health so I can help my community on a daily basis.”

Once again, Paramount High School can boast a nationally-recognized, top-performing student from within its ranks. Congratulations, Jennifer!



### Upcoming Meetings

For more information about Council & Commission meetings, please call (562) 220-2225.

8/9/11 - 6:00 PM  
Planning Commission

8/16/11 - 5:00 PM  
City Council

8/17/11 - 6:00 PM  
Parks and Recreation Commission

### Congresswoman Sánchez to Hold Senior Fair

Join Congresswoman Linda Sánchez at her 9th Annual Senior Fair on Wednesday, August 31, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Paramount Park Community Center.

The event is free and open to the public. No RSVP is required. The Fair is designed to help seniors access free and helpful services in the community and connect them to local organizations and agencies that provide other beneficial resources.

A complimentary lunch will also be provided.

Paramount Park is located at 14400 Paramount Blvd., Paramount. For more information, please contact Congresswoman Sánchez’ district office at (562) 860-5050.