



Isaiah C., Class of 2021



# LIGHTHOUSE

Community Public Schools

## 2021 Impact Report

*Lighthouse graduates are lifelong changemakers who realize their unique vision — rooted in their identity, knowledge, and skills — to create equity in their own lives and in the community, leading to a healthier, more joyful world.*

Giselle V., Class of 2021

# A Note from Rich Harrison, CEO

## Expressing Our Gratitude

Dear Friend,

You are an essential part of the stories included in this 2021 Impact Report. After a year and a half of distance learning, I'm thrilled to welcome 1,550 K-12 students back to campus this fall. I hope what you read here will leave you feeling inspired.

Because of your support, Lighthouse graduates persist through college and launch meaningful careers — lawyers, nurses, business owners, and educators are joining the ranks of Lighthouse alumni. I'm so proud to tell you that Lighthouse graduates are now joining the LCPS Board of Directors, helping to shape the direction of our schools for years to come.

I know you care about preparing each student for college and a career of their choice. With this mission at the center, these are the priorities that will shape our work together for the next three years:



- Build impactful academic programs.
- Love and support the whole child and center their humanity.
- Honor families as experts in their students' lives.

Together, we are creating schools that prepare students in East Oakland to attend and persist through colleges and universities of their choice. Our students are known, loved, and valued; their academic confidence is rooted in the opportunity to dive into learning; and their evolving self-awareness leads to a commitment to be changemakers in service of a more just and equitable world.

Thank you for ensuring that Lighthouse and Lodestar graduates can have a profound impact in Oakland and beyond,

In partnership,



Rich Harrison  
Chief Executive Officer

## Our Core Values



Community



Agency



Integrity



Social Justice

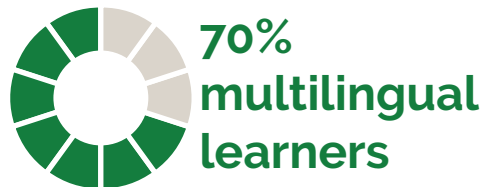
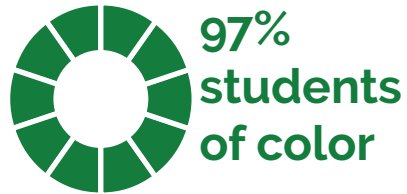


Love

# Our Vision and Mission

## Making an Impact

We believe an exceptional education brings out each child's unique light and potential. Our mission is to prepare a diverse K-12 student population for college and a career of their choice.



**LCPS serves over 1500 students in East Oakland, CA.**



Uriel graduated from Lighthouse in 2013 and earned his BA in Sociology from UC Santa Cruz in 2017. He was the first in his family to earn a college diploma. After college graduation, he worked for a Bay Area law firm in digital marketing. Now Uriel has taken these skills to Larson Communications, a firm that specializes in public education reform and served as a key partner in LCPS charter renewals last year. His new employer, Gary Larson, is thrilled to have Uriel join his team: "He just seems to get the need for a vibrant public school system and greater access and opportunities for families."

**"Lighthouse prepared me as a student in terms of my classes, but also how to be responsible. There were unexpected obstacles, including financial hardships, but the Lighthouse community was there to connect me with scholarship and grant opportunities. That support made a huge difference for me."**

Uriel Chavez  
UC Santa Cruz Class of 2017



# The Lighthouse Class of 2021

## A Grand Graduation



Victor P., Class of 2021

After working hard through a year of distance learning, the senior class advocated for a safe and joyful in-person graduation ceremony. With your support and help from staff at the Oakland A's Coliseum, the students plans became a reality!

65 Lighthouse seniors crossed the stage as the proud Lighthouse Class of 2021. [Click here to watch a 1.5-minute video of the highlights.](#)

Graduates have a range of plans for next year: UCs, CSUs, private 4-year colleges, union apprentice programs, and the military.



Amir S., Class of 2021

90% will be first-generation college students

95% of graduates accepted to a 2- or 4-year college

31 students from the Class of 2021 headed to UC, CSU, or 4-year colleges



# Meet Tina Hernandez

From LCPS Teacher to Chief Academic Officer

**Tina Hernandez is the incoming Chief Academic Officer at Lighthouse Community Public Schools; she shares a tightly woven bond with Oakland and Lighthouse where she has served as a teacher, principal, and coach since 2004. As Tina steps into her new role, she will ensure that LCPS continues to build impactful academic programs while honoring families as experts in their students' lives. Here is her story:**

I was born and raised in Oakland. After a mix of experiences as a student, I knew I wanted to become a teacher who could make a difference in my community.

After 10 years of teaching at a variety of schools around the Bay Area, I came to Lighthouse. I quickly realized that I'd never taught at a school like Lighthouse before — the connection between students, families, and staff was profound. I saw students supporting each other like a family, as most prepared to be the first in their families to go to college.

This college-going culture hit home for me. For many years, I was the only college graduate in our family. Many of my family members had not had the opportunity to go to college and were just surviving financially. I was overwhelmed by the weight of trying to do so much for my extended family and also take care of my own children.

My six siblings and cousins were attending different schools around Oakland, but my mother and I agreed that they should all transfer to Lighthouse for the best shot at going to college.

Andrew, Devonte, Elegante, Ghamari, Josh, and Sam all joined the



**Tina Hernandez**  
Chief Academic Officer

Lighthouse community. They formed a basketball team, studied together, and encouraged each other on their path through high school. I even taught my younger siblings in my classroom!

Because of Lighthouse, there are now several college graduates in my family and more on the path through college. Devonte is currently finishing his degree at CSU Northridge, where he is an assistant men's basketball coach. And Sam and Andrew have returned to Oakland as teachers. Sam is a teacher at Lighthouse and has nearly completed his Master's Degree!

The fabric of our family has been strengthened because of access to college. We are now thriving, not just surviving. We better understand how to use education as a tool to uplift our family and our community. When the pandemic hit, we learned about vaccines and were able to convince our family, neighbors, and friends to 'follow the science' and get vaccinated. And this transformation has happened in **one** generation. Now we can keep our children moving forward towards fulfilling futures for themselves and their children.

At our last family barbecue, someone posed the question, "What's different for us now that we've got so many college graduates in the family?" There was a chorus of responses. Because of these opportunities, it's getting easier to lay the foundation for the generation after us.

**"With access to college we can now focus on the future. From owning property to starting businesses, many of us are having transformational opportunities. We are making plans for our children and our grandchildren."**

**-Tina Hernandez, LCPS Chief Academic Officer**



*Your generous gifts support students on their path to college and meaningful careers. Thank you for enriching their K-12 experience!*



# Seizing Every Opportunity

## SEO Scholars Thrive

When you support students at LCPS, you ensure the opportunity for a life-changing college experience. **Lighthouse Community Public Schools has partnered with SEO (Seizing Every Opportunity) Scholars** — nine LCPS students are now participating in this highly-competitive, eight-year program that mentors historically underserved public high school students from 9th grade through college — with a 90%+ college graduation rate! Together, Lighthouse and Lodestar host more SEO Scholars than any other Oakland school.

In college, each student continues to receive academic advising, one-on-one psychosocial support, and personalized career development so they can meet their academic and professional goals. We can't wait to see all these students will accomplish!



Heaven and l'jonae, Lodestar High School students, are current SEO Scholars. In 2021 they attended additional classes after school and on Saturdays, receiving the equivalent of 2.5 years of additional English and 1.5 years of additional math instruction as they prepare for college and beyond.

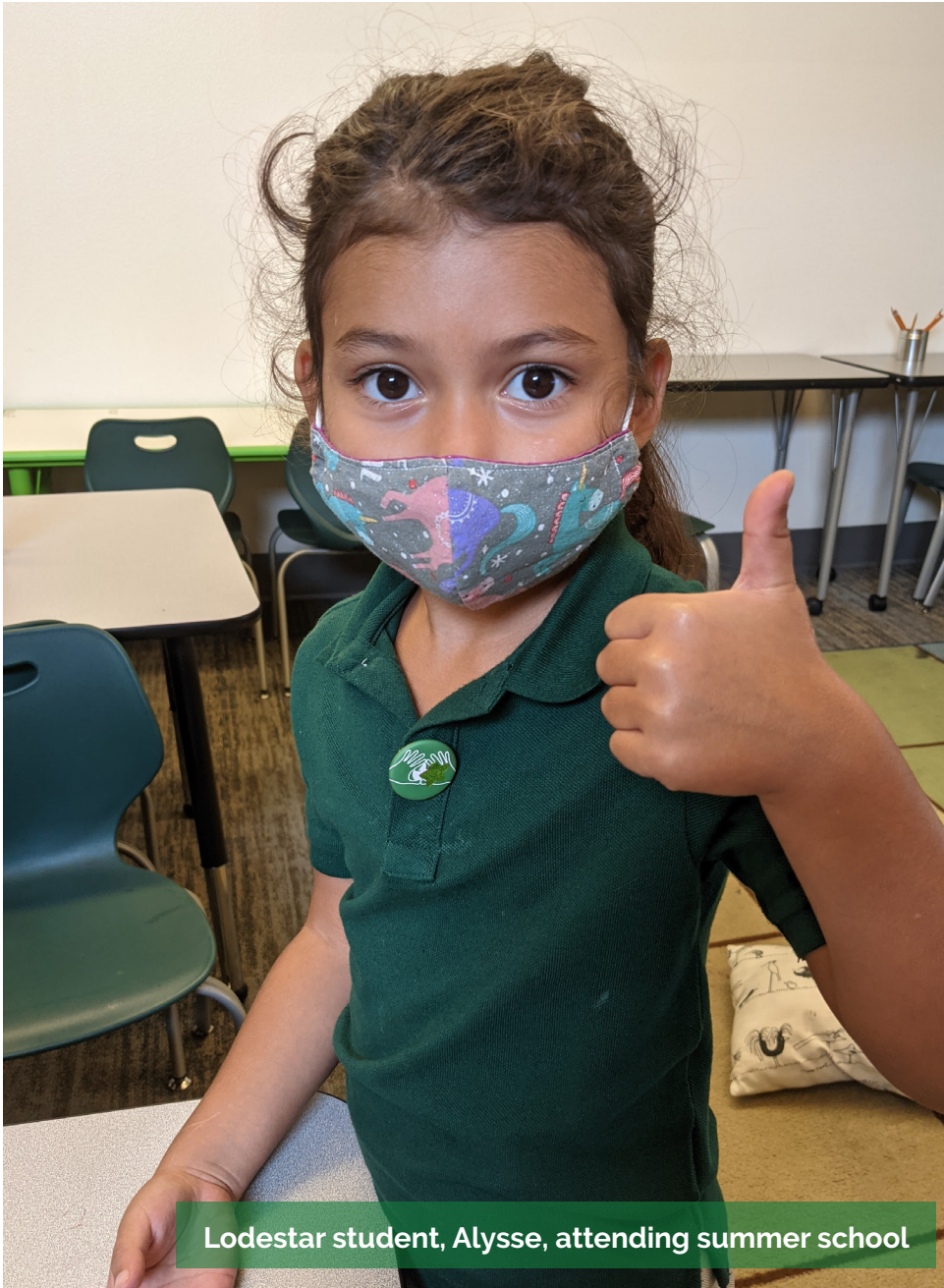


“Oakland Love: A New Future”, Lodestar campus mural



# Summer School 2021

A Celebration of Learning Together



Lodestar student, Alysse, attending summer school

With your incredible support, over 100 kindergarten through 5th-grade students joyfully returned to campus for LCPS Summer School. Students were ready to learn and play in community. Every student followed the new health and safety protocols, from mask-wearing to safe greetings.

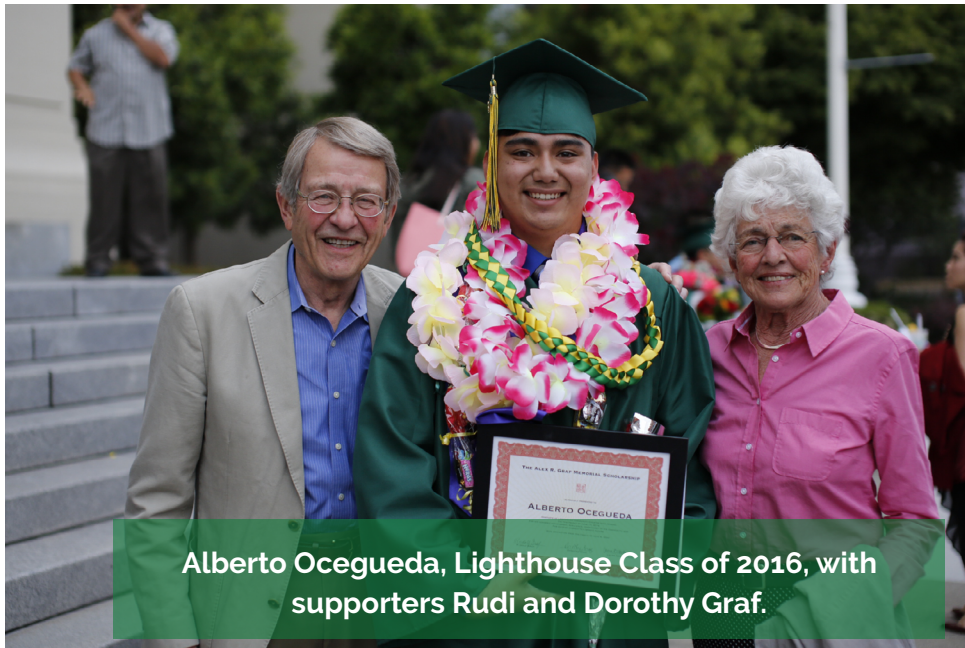
And because of your gifts, 25 9th and 10th graders enrolled in a college Psychology 101 course through Laney College during summer school. The grades are in and every student passed! These students have earned college credit and are now set up for a successful launch of this new year in high school.



Students at summer school with Ms. Jimerson

# LCPS Graduates Join Board of Directors

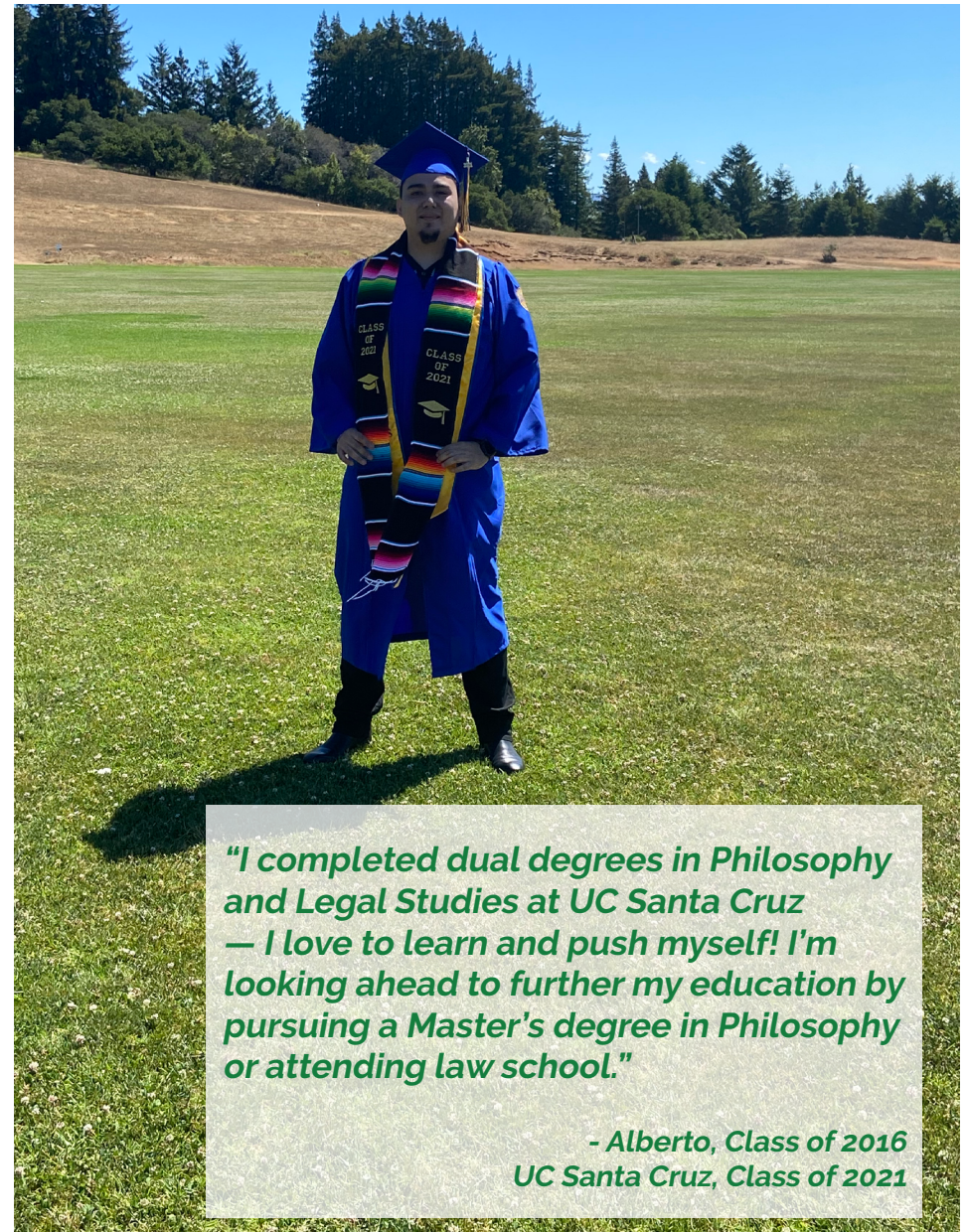
Living the Core Value of Love



Alberto Ocegueda, Lighthouse Class of 2016, with supporters Rudi and Dorothy Graf.

**"I became a strong communicator at Lighthouse. Now, when I share my voice, people listen. My life is filled with opportunities that I never would have had without learning to advocate for myself."**

Alberto graduated from Lighthouse in 2016 and continued his education at UC Santa Cruz. He graduated with a double major in Philosophy and Legal Studies. Alberto now works for a real estate development company in the Bay Area. He is giving back to his community as part of the first class of Lighthouse Community Public Schools Board Fellows. In 2021 he will join Eduardo Figueroa, Lighthouse alum, as a formal member of the LCPS Board of Directors.



***"I completed dual degrees in Philosophy and Legal Studies at UC Santa Cruz — I love to learn and push myself! I'm looking ahead to further my education by pursuing a Master's degree in Philosophy or attending law school."***

***- Alberto, Class of 2016  
UC Santa Cruz, Class of 2021***



# A College-Going Culture

## Blanca discovers her potential

Blanca overcame some tall obstacles to reach graduation day. Like all students, she said goodbye to her friends and teachers in the spring of 2020. She assumed she would be back on campus in a few weeks.

Little did she know, she would not be returning to high school with all of her peers ever again — that she would be completing her senior year by phone, as she helped her parents manage their new family food business, Comidas Carlos y Blanca.

There wasn't time to feel sad — there were bills to pay. So there was Blanca, getting up early on a weekday to go food shopping with her parents — her phone in hand — trying to also pay attention to class, hoping there was a decent internet connection.

Instead of falling behind or losing interest or even dropping out, she actually improved her grades. How did she do it?

"At Lighthouse I learned to advocate for myself. I would go to office hours and I had a connection with my teachers," she says. "I could communicate with them because they understood what was going on."

**"I was at the stores buying all of the things that we needed for the restaurant while math class was happening at the same time. I planned my timing so that I could still be part of class on my phone."**

**-Blanca H., Class of 2021  
CSU Northridge Class of 2025**

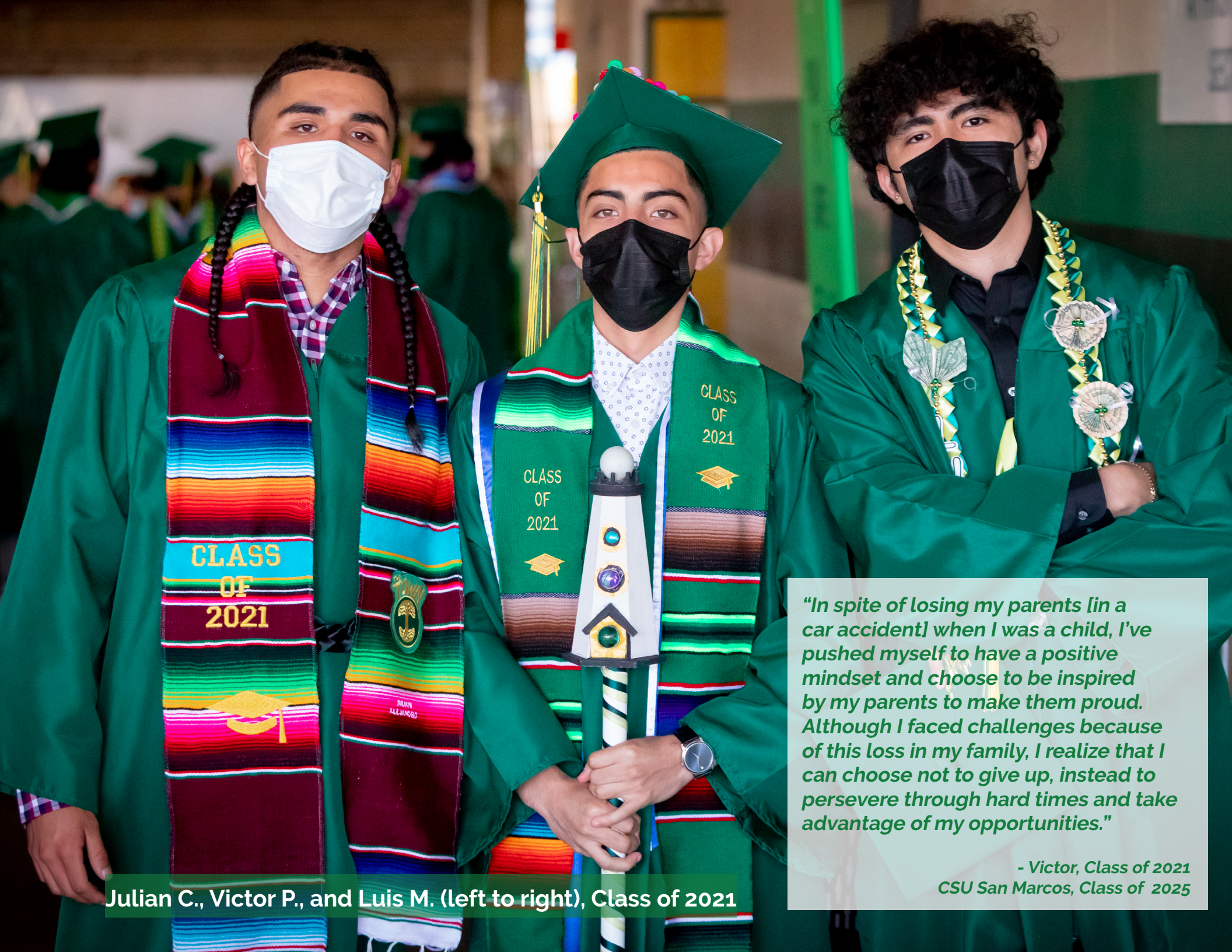
This fall, Blanca will be attending CSU Northridge. She never thought she'd reach this goal — high school graduation speaker going away to college. She always thought she would attend a community college until a Lighthouse counselor encouraged her to look at California State Universities.

So there she was, in the May sunshine, in the middle of the Oakland Coliseum, with her family, friends and classmates looking on as she spoke during this year's Lighthouse High School's graduation ceremony.

Graduation day was very special for the whole family. Her parents are low-key, but she could tell how proud they are of her, excitedly telling family members about her academic accomplishments. "I gave my best," she says, "and all my hard work is paying off."



**Blanca H., Class of 2021**



Julian C., Victor P., and Luis M. (left to right), Class of 2021

*"In spite of losing my parents [in a car accident] when I was a child, I've pushed myself to have a positive mindset and choose to be inspired by my parents to make them proud. Although I faced challenges because of this loss in my family, I realize that I can choose not to give up, instead to persevere through hard times and take advantage of my opportunities."*

*- Victor, Class of 2021  
CSU San Marcos, Class of 2025*



# Our Gratitude

## Investing in the Future

Lightkeepers are individuals and companies who make a lasting impact with a multi-year financial pledge of support. These gifts fill the gap between public school funding and what is needed to provide an exceptional education. Will you pledge a multi-year gift to transform a student's life?

### Lightkeepers

Mark Barnes  
Kevin and Patricia Bohm  
Ron and Avis Codron  
Wayne and Lynn Delker  
Melissa Barnes Dholakia and Sanjay Dholakia  
Sameer and Laura Dholakia  
Marianne and Ronald Dreisbach  
Mark and Kim Drucker  
D'Lonra Ellis and Osagie Obasogie  
Lynn Greenberg and Michael Rothschild  
Hibser Yamauchi Architects, Inc.  
David Hofmayer and Ashlee Tran  
Michael Hofmayer and Ann Tipton  
Kimi Kean and Alexandre Yamamoto  
Karen and Wes Lybrand  
Mark and Valerie Milner  
Paul and Valerie Minney  
Alicia and Brett Moore  
Otis McAllister  
Chuck and Julie Palley  
Rachel Rendel  
Brian and Katie Rogers  
Signature Development Group  
Rhonnell and Kris Sotelo  
Shawn Tabai and Sania Fong  
Jonathan Velline and Victoria Varieur  
Christine and Erik Zwerling



Brandon and Anthony, Lodestar Class of 2030

**"I support Lighthouse schools because every child deserves to have access to a great education. It feels amazing to be part of a child's journey from kindergarten through college. I've supported Lighthouse students since 2009 and I've seen that graduates are giving back to our community while they are in school and after they graduate from college."**

**- Rachel Rendel, LCPS Lightkeeper  
CEO and President of Columbia Cosmetic Manufacturing, Inc.**



# Our Partners

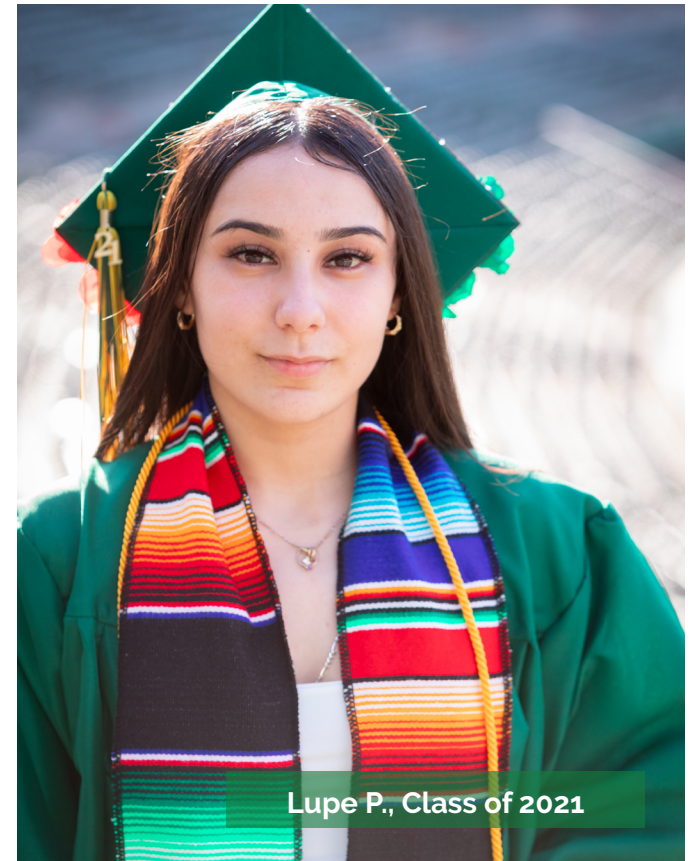
Making the Work Possible

## Community Partners

Alder Graduate School of Education  
California Charter Schools Association  
EL Education  
Families In Action for Quality Education  
First Republic Bank  
GO Public Schools  
NAACP  
National Equity Project  
Oakland Undivided  
Pacific Charter School Development  
The Oakland Public Education Fund  
The Oakland REACH  
Seneca Family of Agencies  
Vision Quilt

## Partners in College-Going Success

Alex R. Graf Memorial Scholarship Fund  
Braven Career Booster Program  
Destination College Advising Corps (DCAC)  
East Bay Consortium  
EL Education  
Google Giving Week Donors  
Oakland Promise  
SEO Scholars San Francisco  
The Posse Foundation  
Peter Sategna Educational Foundation



Lupe P., Class of 2021

## Foundation Partners

Crescent Porter Hale Foundation  
East Bay Community Foundation  
Educate 78  
Oakland Public Education Fund  
Oakland Fund for Children and Youth  
Quest Foundation  
Kenneth Rainin Foundation  
Rogers Family Foundation  
Silicon Schools  
Irene S. Scully Foundation  
The Stocker Foundation  
Warriors Community Foundation

**“I jumped at the chance to be on the LCPS Board of Directors. It has been a great honor to support quality schools that truly build community and maintain high academic standards for their students. It is also extraordinary that the opportunity now exists for a Lighthouse or Lodestar student to enroll in kindergarten and have a clear path all the way to college. I can’t wait to see what the next generation of graduates will achieve!”**

**- Brian Rogers, LCPS Board of Directors  
CEO, Rogers Family Foundation**



# Our Partners

Making the Work Possible

Helping students and parents discover their own power is incredibly inspiring. Lighthouse and Lodestar families are leading this work in Oakland, demonstrating the power that is latent within our school communities. I am honored to be part of this team — when we empower youth and families, we see transformative leadership.”

- Kimi Kean, CEO, Families in Action for Quality Education  
LCPS Board of Directors

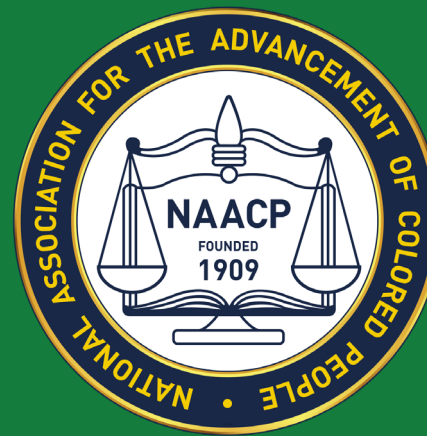
Students and parents develop their leadership capacity through Families in Action for Quality Education, building a citywide movement for quality schools. LCPS families and youth are leaders and community organizers in Oakland, driving positive change across the city.



**FAMILIES**  
**IN ACTION**  
— for quality education —

# Education

EL Education provides coaching for teachers and a K-12 curriculum for creative, hands-on learning opportunities at Lighthouse and Lodestar. In partnership with EL Education, each student does work that is challenging, adventurous and meaningful — from service learning to exploration in the natural world.



The Oakland Chapter of the NAACP, together with LCPS, is ensuring all K-5 students at Lighthouse and Lodestar are screened for dyslexia, along with increased teacher training and effective interventions in early literacy.



# Our Leadership

Working for the Future



Jeanine Evains-Robinson



Lorena Montoya



Latora Baldrige



Vi Lê

## Board of Directors

**Melissa Barnes Dholakia**, Executive Director, MBD Partners

**Wayne Delker**, Chief Innovation Officer, Clorox (retired)

**Eduardo Figueroa**, Student, UC Berkeley School of Law

**Kimi Kean**, CEO, Families in Action for Quality Education (Board Chair)

**Mark Milner**, Risk Management and Finance Executive (retired)

**Alicia Moore**, Head of Global ATM Partnerships, Visa

**Ben Ochstein**, California State Director, Scoot Education

**Brandon Wall**, Data Scientist, InClassToday

**Kenya Williams**, Executive Assistant, French American International School

## Executive Leadership and Principals

**Rich Harrison**, Chief Executive Officer

**Tina Hernandez**, Chief Academic Officer

**Robbie Torney**, Chief of Staff

**Lorena Montoya**, Lighthouse K-5 Principal

**Jeanine Evains-Robinson**, Lighthouse 6-12 Principal

**Vi Lê**, Lodestar K-5 Principal

**Latora Baldrige**, Lodestar 6-12 Principal

**"I am inspired every day seeing students become changemakers. Students are preparing for college and their careers while staying rooted in their identities. And ultimately they are creating equity in their lives and the lives of their families and community."**

**- Lorena Montoya  
Lighthouse K-5 Principal**



## Steve Sexton Scholarship Fund Planning with Care and Intention



Ruby Sexton, Steve's daughter, presented this year's Sexton Scholarship recipient at Lighthouse's graduation ceremony in June 2021.

Founder of Lighthouse Community Charter School, Steve Sexton, was a champion for Oakland's students, especially those who may have the deck stacked against them or who might have wanted to give up along their way. For years, as the Lighthouse Head of School, Steve inspired students to pursue college and persist through it. He continued to counsel many students while they were in college. In his last graduation speech given in June 2015, Steve's clear message was clear, "Find your Passion! Pursue it! Never relent!"

Steve's life was cut short by brain cancer in October 2015, but his passion for students' success lives on through a scholarship that is awarded every year to a graduating Lighthouse senior. This modest scholarship gets the most applications from seniors at Lighthouse. It means much more than the dollar amount associated with it. It is a badge of honor — symbolizing the care and dedication of Lighthouse's founder.

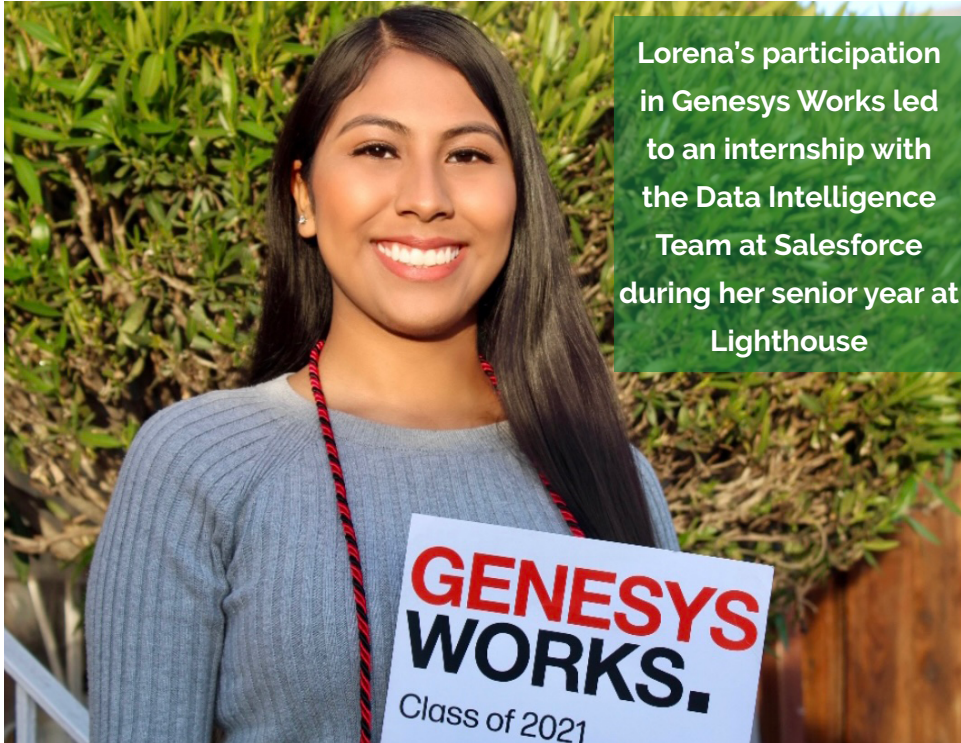


Celebrating the remarkable life and dedication Steve had for Lighthouse students, the Steve Sexton Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Roxana Guzman from the Lighthouse Class of 2021. Roxana received \$1,500 to pursue her passion at UC Santa Barbara. She hopes to start a non-profit providing free tutoring for first-generation college students.



# Lighthouse Graduates Chart Bright Paths

Lorena heads to UC Berkeley



Lorena's participation in Genesys Works led to an internship with the Data Intelligence Team at Salesforce during her senior year at Lighthouse

## What is your family's connection to Lighthouse?

Being part of the Lighthouse community for eight years taught me so much about leadership and perseverance. Being held to such high standards wasn't always easy — my teachers taught me to advocate for myself. This crucial skill has helped me get to where I am today.

I am the first in my family to graduate from high school and go to college. My sister, Marysol (8th grade), and brother, Alonso (5th grade), have attended Lighthouse since kindergarten and are on a path to college too!

Raised in Oakland my entire life, I am aware of the struggles our community faces and how fortunate I am to have a family and community that have helped me stay on track. Regardless of the obstacles that were in front of me, I can confidently say that I never gave up.

Being a changemaker takes initiative, and Lighthouse offered me the tools to take that first step to make connections and take advantage of opportunities. My internship with the HEAL program and my Genesys Works placement at Salesforce helped me determine what I want to study in college. [Click here to hear more from Lorena about her internship experience with Genesys Works!](#)

## What are you excited to study at UC Berkeley?

Since the start of my journey at Lighthouse, I've had a passion for pursuing a career in STEM. This fall I am looking forward to studying Computer Science and Electrical Engineering at UC Berkeley.



Lorena, Class of 2021, with her family



Diploma of Graduation  
This Certifies That  
Henry Buckman Jr.  
has completed the Course of Study prescribed for Graduation from the  
Eighthouse Community Charter School  
and is therefore awarded this  
Diploma  
Given this thirty seventh day of May, the thirtieth month and  
year of our Independence

CLASS  
OF  
2021

CONGRATS  
BABY BROTHER

Henry B., Class of 2021, with his family



Lighthouse Graduates at Oakland Coliseum, June 2021



# LIGHTHOUSE

A Lighthouse Community Public School

**Lighthouse Campus**  
444 Hegenberger Road  
Oakland, CA 94621  
K-5 Front Desk: (510) 562-8801  
6-12 Front Desk: (510) 562-8825



# LODESTAR

A Lighthouse Community Public School

**Lodestar Campus**  
701 105th Ave  
Oakland, CA 94603  
K-5 Front Desk: (510) 775-0255  
6-10 Front Desk: (510) 775-0382

To view financial reports and annual audit  
email [info@lighthousecharter.org](mailto:info@lighthousecharter.org)

[www.lighthousecharter.org](http://www.lighthousecharter.org)

A special thank you to Evan Blaser Photography