



Press Release – For Immediate Release April 13, 2011

## GAREY HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR ACCEPTED TO PRINCETON, HARVARD, YALE AND 19 OTHER COLLEGES

Martha Vasquez couldn't be prouder. A single mom, she supports her two sons cleaning houses and offices. Her older son has been working to help with household expenses while going to college; he is about to graduate from Cal Poly Pomona with an accounting degree.

Now her younger son, Edgar, has a choice to make – a choice that more affluent students all over the country would love to have. Edgar has to decide whether to spend the next four years at Princeton, Harvard or Yale.

Or at any of the other nineteen colleges where he was accepted – in fact, Edgar was admitted to every college he applied to. Runners-up include Stanford, U.C. Berkeley, UCLA, U Penn, Cornell, Pomona College...the list goes on.

An avid reader with a high grade point average and standardized test scores, Edgar has a love of language and aspires to be a writer and to give back to his family and his community. His teachers at Garey High School say he has given other students hope and encouragement for their college dreams.

Edgar has been mentored for the last three years by Bright Prospect, a non-profit organization that guides students in Pomona, Ontario, Montclair and Chino toward college readiness and stays with its students throughout their college years to help them overcome the challenges that prevent two out of three first-generation students from limited-income families from reaching graduation. This year, Bright Prospect scholars from earlier classes will be graduating from institutions including Princeton, Yale, MIT, Swarthmore, U.C. Berkeley, Vassar, Williams and Dartmouth.

Bright Prospect works with any student at the schools it serves who is interested in going to college. The program has 130 high school seniors in its class of 2011. Every one of them is expected to matriculate to college in the fall. The colleges they attend will include community colleges, Cal State campuses, U.C. campuses and selective private universities and liberal arts colleges. Bright Prospect staff have already taken some students on a road trip to visit Northern California U.C. campuses. Other students are being flown out this month to visit colleges including Swarthmore, Dartmouth, Bryn Mawr, Williams, Wellesley, Middlebury, Brown and U Penn in order to make an informed decision. For most of these students, this will be their first experience traveling by plane. All students must make their choice by the May 1 deadline.

Last week, Edgar visited Princeton, where a Bright Prospect senior and freshman shared their experiences with him. This week, he is visiting Harvard and Yale. Wherever he and the other Bright Prospect students decide to go, they will have the support of their peers and the Bright Prospect staff.

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