



## LEADERSHIP ADDRESS

As we reflect on the past fiscal year, Project QUEST proudly declares that we have soared to new heights! Our unwavering dedication to our community and the individuals we serve has propelled us to achieve unprecedented levels of engagement and service throughout the San Antonio region. This milestone year also marked the completion of our inaugural year of the groundbreaking Ready to Work program. We are pleased to report that Project QUEST is performing above expectations and continues to deliver on our commitment to the success of this program.

Through the tireless efforts of our committed and skilled staff, Project QUEST has reached a new pinnacle in the number of participants served. We successfully enrolled 1,065 new individuals, providing support and Coaching to a total of 2,359 participants. Guiding 861 towards graduation, we achieved a remarkable feat by placing 515 participants into transformative careers in key industries such as Healthcare, Information Technology, and Trades. Notably, those placed experienced a significant increase in their annual earnings, soaring from an average pre-QUEST wage of \$15,553 to an impressive verified post-QUEST average wage of \$46,648—an extraordinary 200% increase! The combined impact of these placements injects an astounding \$24 million back into the San Antonio community.

This year, Project QUEST has made a significant increase in our depth and breadth of our nationally recognized wraparound model. Project QUEST successfully secured funding to introduce two pivotal roles: a Social Worker and an Alumni Relations and Career Transitions Coordinator. In doing so, we have positioned ourselves to be better equipped to address the pressing needs of the social and emotional well-being of our participants and recognizing the importance of supporting our alumni on their ongoing professional journeys. With the addition of these roles, we have not only elevated our capacity to serve our participants but also solidified our lifelong commitment to QUESTERS.

In looking ahead, Project QUEST is poised for continued success and growth. The achievements of this fiscal year serve as a foundation for our ongoing commitment to creating meaningful impact in the lives of those we serve. As we celebrate our achievements, we also look forward to the future, where our passionate and talented staff, supported by the guidance of our dedicated Board, will continue to change lives. The support of our key partners and funders remains crucial to the continued success and growth of Project QUEST. We extend our deepest gratitude to every individual and organization that has played a pivotal role in the success of our mission.



**Lelani Mercado**  
CHIEF PROGRAM OFFICER



**Dr. Sonia Rodriguez**  
BOARD CHAIR

# ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

On December 13, 2023 Project QUEST held our Annual Awards Luncheon where we were joined by nearly 350 key community partners, funders and local business and civic leaders to celebrate the shared accomplishments this past fiscal year. We took the time to honor three partners for their commitment to continuing the mission of QUEST!



**Ron Nirenberg**  
*Mayor, City of San Antonio*



**Vincent Hernandez**  
*Inspire Medical Academy*



**USAA**

In addition, Project QUEST also inducted two new inductees to the distinguished Wall of Honor.



**Rev. Will Wauters**  
*Metro Alliance*



**Virginia Ramirez**  
*Communities Organized for Public Services (COPS)*



## OUR EFFORTS THIS YEAR HAVE RESULTED IN SEVERAL SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS

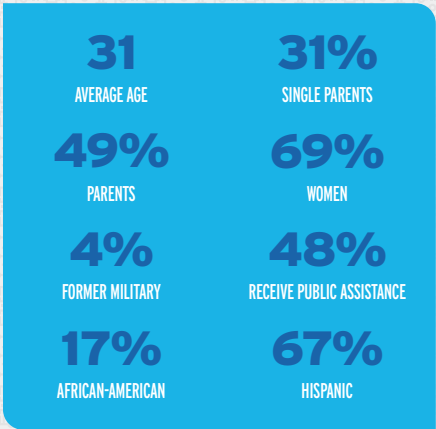
- We delivered our nationally recognized wraparound model to a record number of participants, with nearly 2,400 individuals served this fiscal year.
- We successfully implemented a full year of the City of San Antonio's unprecedented Ready to Work program, resulting in a remarkable wage increase of over 200% for our graduates.
- QUEST graduates placed in jobs made a substantial impact of approximately \$24 million injected back into the San Antonio community.
- We secured funding to enhance the depth and breadth of our wraparound model, ensuring the social and emotional well-being of our participants, as well as providing ongoing professional development support for our alumni.

# PARTICIPANT

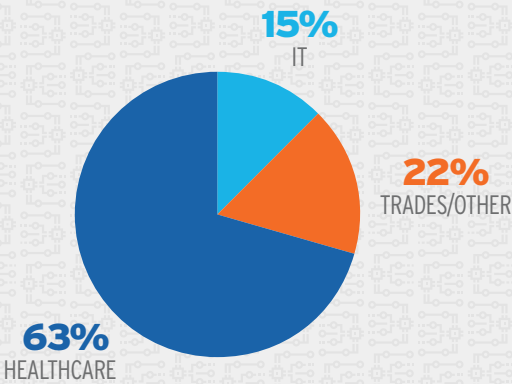
## OUTCOMES



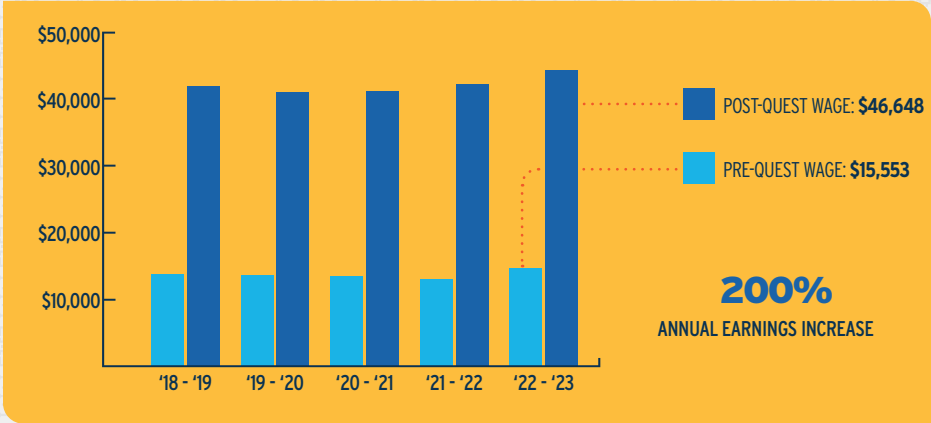
## DEMOGRAPHICS



## CAREER TRACKS







## PARTICIPANT ANNUAL EARNINGS








# FINANCIAL STATEMENT



	State Government	<b>\$431,014</b>
	Local Government	<b>\$7,222,221</b>
	Foundation Grants	<b>\$2,305,777</b>
	Individual & Corp Gifts	<b>\$1,739,457</b>

	Program Services	<b>\$7,838,460</b>
	Administration	<b>\$810,915</b>
	Fundraising	<b>\$153,290</b>

90% OF EXPENSES ARE USED DIRECTLY TO SUPPORT PARTICIPANTS



## SUCCESS STORIES



### Marbella

REGISTERED DENTAL ASSISTANT

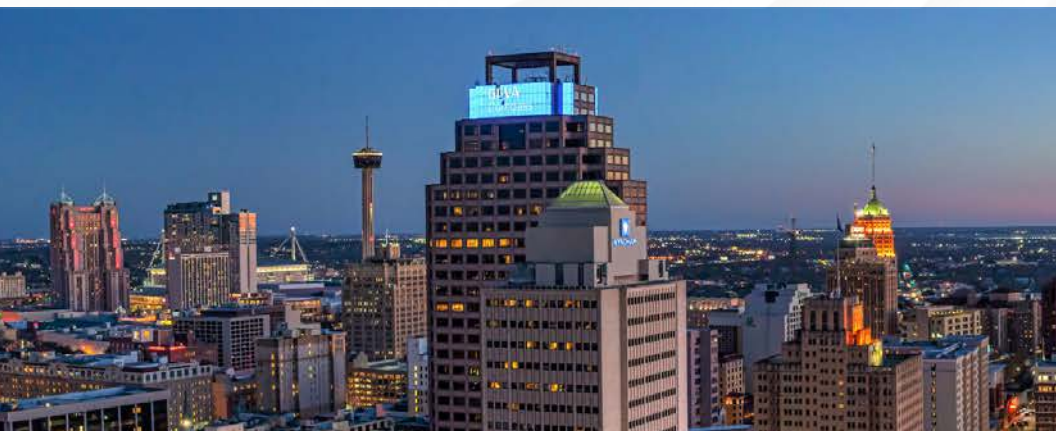
Marbella, a trailblazing first-generation student hailing from Mexico, embarked on an inspiring journey of educational perseverance and professional achievement. Armed with a nutrition degree from her home country, Marbella encountered the formidable challenge of a language barrier, preventing the seamless transfer of her qualifications.

Undeterred, she tenaciously pursued her educational goals, overcoming obstacles to obtain her GED in San Antonio. Undoubtedly ambitious, Marbella set her sights on the dental field, initiating her foray by enrolling in prerequisite courses for dental hygiene. Recognizing the ongoing struggle with the English language, she strategically immersed herself in various customer service roles, not only as a means of livelihood but also as a dedicated language practice.

As Marbella delved into the rigorous dental hygiene courses, she astutely reassessed her path, deciding to commence her journey as a dental assistant to gain hands-on experience. Choosing the esteemed University of the Incarnate Word for her Dental Assistant program, Marbella discovered a newfound sense of purpose and excelled in her studies.

The culmination of her dedication came with the successful completion of the program, leading to immediate employment upon graduation. Marbella's journey is not just a personal triumph but a testament to the transformative impact of programs like Project QUEST, which provided crucial support throughout her remarkable odyssey.

With her sights set on continuous growth in the dental field, Marbella remains grateful for the unwavering support she received, epitomizing the spirit of resilience and determination that defines her inspiring story.





## Raihana

CERTIFIED MEDICAL ASSISTANT

Raihana's family, a close-knit unit of four, navigated the challenges of displacement and embarked on a new chapter in San Antonio, Texas. Driven by a shared commitment to their family's well-being, Raihana and her husband set out on a journey to secure financial stability.

Raihana's expertise spans a broad spectrum, from adeptly handling plasma sampling and injections to showcasing her skills in midwifery and assisting with births, highlighting her unwavering dedication to delivering compassionate and expert care. Eager to kick start her journey in the Medical Assistant program at the University of the Incarnate Word, Raihana sought the support of Project QUEST. However, she faced significant language barriers. Undaunted, Raihana took proactive measures, immersing herself in additional ESL classes, a pivotal step to pave the way for a brighter future before delving into the Medical Assistant program.

Determination marked every stage of Raihana's preparation for the Medical Assistant program. Her relentless efforts bore fruit during her second assessment, where her scores experienced a remarkable surge, attesting to her wholehearted readiness for the program. Raihana's diligence and unwavering commitment caught the attention of instructors, earning her commendation for exceptional performance in both didactic and lab aspects of her studies.

Today, Raihana proudly holds the title of a Certified Medical Assistant, and she quickly gained employment at a medical clinic, where her multifaceted expertise found a perfect match. Her journey stands as a testament to resilience, determination, and a commitment to excellence in the face of challenges.



# THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

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## OUR MISSION

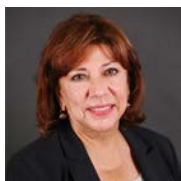
To strengthen the economy and transform lives by preparing individuals for in demand, living-wage careers.

## OUR VISION

Project QUEST will be San Antonio's leading workforce development initiative; providing life-changing services, education and career skills through collaboration and community partnerships.

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October 1, 2022 - September 30, 2023



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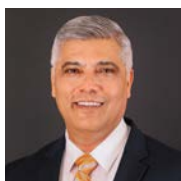
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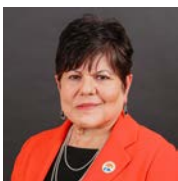
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