

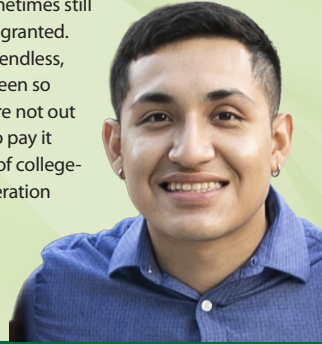
## Ensuring the Next Generation's Access to Higher Education

Your support directly benefits two important Programs at George Mason University.

### Early Identification Program (EIP)

To me and many others, EIP stands as a pillar of hope and an extended hand to many motivated college-bound first-generation students. As an eighth grader, when you join the program, you have no clue what's in store in your journey leading up to college. EIP serves as a guiding hand that allows creative young minds to see their potential and allocates the resources that will further allow them to prosper. As a recipient of the full-tuition scholarship, I sometimes still find it hard to believe to be true, but I have never taken this blessing for granted. The list of what this financial support has meant to my family and me is endless, and I'll be eternally grateful to the mentors and staff who have always been so eager and genuine with their intentions in assuring me that dreams were not out of reach. However, what I'm even more thankful for is EIP allowing me to pay it forward. I have the capacity to positively influence the next generation of college-bound students and be the light in the tunnel that some of us first-generation students sometimes struggle to find.

Noel Quezada  
B.S. in Criminology with a Double Minor in  
General and Forensic Psychology | Class of 2024



### Student Transition Empowerment Program (STEP)

Going into university, I had a great deal of stress and anxiety. Being a first-generation student, I spent many of my years in the United States navigating for my family. I was the translator, the search engine, I applied for jobs for them, searched for apartments, answered phone calls, and did everything my parents needed. As a student, I was always the first in attendance and the first to submit assignments, and I got the highest scores. I knew precisely what was expected of me and what and how to do it. However, as a high school senior, I was lost. I didn't know what college was like, and I had no one to ask for guidance and support.

Then, I received an email from George Mason University inviting me to apply for the STEP program, the Student Transition and Empowerment Program. As I read more about it, I quickly went to my high school's college and career counselor, asking him about the program and if he thought this was a scam email. I mean, how could this great opportunity be free? After some investigation on his end, it was confirmed it was an actual program and an opportunity I must not miss. Let me preface by saying that applying was one of the best decisions I have ever made. I assumed the program would be a way to make friends and learn how to navigate around George Mason University, but soon, I realized it was much more. As I mentioned before, being an immigrant and first-generation student, my family depended on me for an abundance of needs I was expected to fulfill, not allowing me much time to learn about myself and the skills necessary to navigate the world in the United States. During the STEP program, I grew as a person and learned more about myself, sharing dozens of experiences and emotions with the friends I developed in the program. It created a safe space for us, not only to share our past experiences but to create new and exciting ones. We pushed each other while taking part in activities and workshops the program graciously provided and learned how to connect with one another, which did become helpful in furthering my academic career. Additionally, taking a class together furthered our understanding of how a college classroom is conducted. We also had a study hall time that not only helped us manage and prioritize our time but also taught us various studying techniques. STEP was not just a summer program; it was a community—a community where we formed relationships with our peers, staff members, and alumni. Being taught the numerous resources, GMU offers to students, especially first-generation and undocumented students. We had workshops for almost every single recourse GMU provided us, along with workshops that indeed developed us as students and individuals of this community.

When I started my first year as a college student, I finally had a head start. I didn't feel like I didn't belong with the other students, and I knew exactly what I needed to do. I knew how to manage my classes and my time, and I knew whom to reach out to if I needed any additional help or if I felt stuck. I learned how to communicate with my professors. Not only did STEP provide me with tremendous opportunities and resources, but they also helped make every STEP student a resource. This is why I chose to come back as a mentor, to give back a portion of what the program has done for me.

Omnia Abdelkarim, STEP 2017



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## Diversity Scholarship Golf Classic

Monday, June 10, 2024

Westfields Golf Club  
Shotgun Start at 8:30a.m.



A SPECIAL THANKS to our 2024 Title Sponsor, Sandy Spring Bank. We also thank all the corporations, small businesses, and individuals who, over the past 28 years, have generously contributed more than \$850,000 to support student scholarships.



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From here. For here.

A benefit event that directly supports  
preparing, recruiting, and retaining first-generation college students



All Sponsorship packages include a special invitation to EIP and STEP events												
<b>Monday, June 10, 2024</b> <b>Westfields Golf Club</b> <b>Player Check-in: 7:30 a.m.</b> <b>Shotgun Start: 8:30 a.m.</b> <b>Awards Luncheon w/</b> <b>Live Auction: 2:00 p.m.</b> <b>Players: \$250/Golfer</b> <b>\$1000/Foursome</b> <b>\$119/Golfer is Non-Tax Deductible</b>  <b>SPONSORSHIP</b> <b>PACKAGES</b>												
	Package Cost	Number of complimentary players	Company name or logo listed on tournament banner	Company name or logo prominently displayed at lunch venue	Number of Tee signs at designated Holes	Tee or Hole sign at designated Hole	Tee and Hole sign at designated Hole	Tee or Hole sign at designated Par3 Tee or Hole	Company name or logo displayed on golf carts	Full Page Ad in Souvenir Program	Company/individual name listed in Souvenir Program	Special recognition during awards luncheon
Patriot Scholarship	\$7,500	4	•		4					•	•	•
Souvenir Program	\$4,000	2	•		2					•	•	•
Freedom Cart	\$3,000	2	•			•		•			•	•
Quill Lunch	\$2,500	2	•	•		•					•	•
Mason Tee and Hole	\$700	1	•				•				•	
Green & Gold Scholarship	\$500	1									•	
Individual Tee or Hole	\$300							•			•	

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank you for joining us at the Diversity Scholarship Golf Classic in support of George Mason University's Early Identification Program. Since 1987, EIP and the Student Transition Empowerment Program (STEP) have extended academic opportunities to talented Northern Virginia students of all backgrounds.

Each year we honor EIP graduates at our spring Board of Visitors meeting. I'll never forget the EIP graduate who spoke at last year's ceremony. He said, "What EIP taught me in high school was that big dreams can turn into reality."

Support from partners like you helps first-generation scholars from throughout this region realize their dreams. Do you know that U.S. News & World Report, the Wall Street Journal, and Washington Monthly all rank Mason as the top public university in Virginia for social mobility? And that the New York Times ranks Mason as the top public university in the state in its economic diversity index?

As EIP supporters, you not only share in that success, you are a core part of it. And the more students and families we can serve, the better. We plan to continue to grow EIP through our Mason Virginia Promise, a guaranteed pathway to a bachelor's degree, or help starting a business, for any Virginian who aspires to either goal.

Thank you again for providing opportunities for EIP students. The fruits of your generosity are felt in homes, communities and workplaces across our region.

Sincerely,  
 Dr. Gregory Washington  
 President, George Mason University

To reserve your sponsorship package, register to play, or make a contribution visit: [diversitygolfclassic.gmu.edu](http://diversitygolfclassic.gmu.edu)

**Questions:** Contact Alissa Karton at [akarton@gmu.edu](mailto:akarton@gmu.edu) or phone 703-993-1438

**UNIVERSITY LIFE** supports every student at Mason. We work in partnership with the corporate community and private citizens, folks like you, to raise funds in support of student diversity and leadership education initiatives.

Funds raised through this tournament will benefit our first-generation student community by supporting successful resources like the Early Identification Program and Student Transition Empowerment Programs (EIP/STEP), and other initiatives that provide academic preparation, cultural awareness, career exploration, service learning, and empowerment to first-generation college students, some of whom come from low socioeconomic backgrounds. Your contributions help us realize the goal of supporting overall student achievement.

**TOURNAMENT FORMAT** will be a four-person scramble where each player will drive from the Tee box. Team captains determine the best ball position, and all players hit from this position. From there, best ball play will continue on to the green where each player has an opportunity to sink a winning putt. Players can assemble four-person teams; Individual golfers will be assigned to a foursome.

**AWARDS** will be presented to the teams with the lowest scores in each of three flights, and will be determined by actual scores after the round. Individuals will be awarded for longest drive, straightest drive, and closest to the pin on selected holes, for both men and women. There will also be an opportunity to participate in our putting contest.

## University Life Advisory Board

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