

SLT Scholars
March 2026 Newsletter

Dear Sponsors and Friends,

The start of a new school year always brings a special kind of energy, and this year in San Lucas that excitement was unmistakable. I was honored to join the community in celebrating the official opening of the public school year—a ceremony filled with pride, tradition, and deep love for both community and country. Local and state education leaders, teachers, and students gathered together. I was privileged to take part in the ribbon cutting ceremony dedicating a new classroom at the IMED school in honor of its former director. The event even made local TV, a testament to how meaningful education is here.

My week in San Lucas was short but full. Between scholarship program activities, I visited my own scholars and those sponsored by my daughters. These young people are bright, motivated, and deeply grateful for the support you provide. Your generosity is shaping futures.

Each morning, as I walked for my first cup of coffee, I watched parents and older siblings escort the youngest students to the mission school. What struck me this year was the number of motorcycles weaving through the streets. In earlier years, nearly everyone walked. Then came the tuk tuks, followed by small, enclosed taxis. But 2026 appears to be the year of the motorcycle. When I asked about this shift, no one had a clear answer, but I suspect it reflects the growing economic support from San Luqueños working in the U.S.. New shops are opening, and many look brighter, cleaner, and larger than before. Of course, prosperity is relative. Many of our scholars still live in very small homes—some with dirt floors or bamboo walls. Yet the signs of progress offer hope.

I'm also delighted to share that donations to the Dennis Evans Legacy Society are now funding honorary university scholarships for three students—two continuing their studies and one just beginning his first year. This is a meaningful expansion of our mission.

Ingrid Areli

Ingrid's journey is shaped by resilience. Growing up in San Lucas Tolimán, she watched her mother shoulder the family's responsibilities after both her father and stepfather left. Those experiences inspired her to pursue a career rooted in care and service. Now 23, she is studying to become a professional nurse at Universidad Panamericana while balancing two jobs—one at a store and another through her own small business—to help support her mother and pay for school. In her third year of the program, Ingrid is deeply thankful for the scholarship that eases her family's financial burden and strengthens her commitment to serving others through nursing.

Evelin Betzabé

Evelin, also from San Lucas Tolimán, grew up helping her mother run a small home bakery while her father worked as a driver whenever jobs were available. Now 23, she is studying Pedagogy and Educational Administration at Universidad de San Carlos—a degree that will allow her to teach at the high school level and eventually lead an educational institution. This year, she reached an important milestone: her first teaching job at the school in Pampojilá. The

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experience has affirmed her passion for education and brought her one step closer to her dream of becoming a school director. Her dedication to learning and her commitment to her family continue to guide her forward.

Greivin Alexander

At just 19, Greivin is already charting an ambitious path far beyond his rural hometown of San Juan Mirador. Each week, he leaves home before dawn to work in Suchitepéquez, returning only on weekends so he can attend Saturday classes in Sololá. He's pursuing a degree in Agricultural and Livestock Technology Engineering, a field rarely chosen in his community but one he sees as essential for its future. Known for his strong academic performance and love of learning, Greivin hopes to bring sustainable farming practices and new agricultural knowledge back to San Juan Mirador. He carries deep gratitude for the support that is helping him move toward this vision.

Most university degrees in Guatemala are six-year programs, and students attend classes on Saturdays so they can work during the week. This structure allows them to support their families while pursuing higher education, but it also demands remarkable endurance and commitment. Many of our scholars balance full time jobs with long commutes and rigorous academic schedules, making their achievements all the more inspiring. If you would like to learn more about how to support a student who wishes to study at the university level, please let me know.

Thank you for your continued belief in these students and in the future of San Lucas. Your support is felt every single day.

With gratitude

Julie Marcotte
Executive Director
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