



# BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE

EDU-FUTURO'S 23RD  
ANNIVERSARY VIRTUAL GALA  
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH, 2021  
6:30 - 8:00 PM

[WWW.EDU-FUTURO.ORG/GALA](http://WWW.EDU-FUTURO.ORG/GALA)



## EVENT SCHEDULE

6:30 to 8:00 PM

Silent Auction / Program

- Remarks by Edu-Futuro Board Chair **Jeanne Balcom** and Executive Director **Jorge E. Figueredo**
  - Remarks by Dr. **Irma Becerra**
  - Student and Parent Testimonials
  - Award Ceremony honoring:
    - Corporate Partner of the Year - **Verizon**
    - Community Partners of the Year - **Bailey's Crossroads Community Mutual Aid** and **Wednesday Parents Group of Kenmore Middle School**
    - and the Special Recognition Award - **Fairfax County - Department of Neighborhood and Community Services**
- Presentation of **Dr. Marjorie L. Myers Scholarship** to two outstanding first-generation students

2021 was a difficult year, to say the least. As the COVID-19 Pandemic entered its second year, immigrants and their families across the country continued to face unprecedented hardships. Yet in the face of adversity our communities showed remarkable tenacity and resilience.

The theme for Edu-Futuro's 23rd Anniversary Gala - **Building a Brighter Future** - serves as an acknowledgment of this endeavor while also looking to a future in a post-pandemic world. It will spotlight the hard work, dedication, and academic success of the students in our programs who, despite the pandemic, were offered a record amount in scholarships and financial aid.

# HOST & ARTIST



## **Andrea Sarralde Shelton**

is a six-time Emmy® Award Winning broadcast journalist and veteran communications professional

with more than 18 years of experience working both as producer and host of a variety of television and radio programs in the Washington metropolitan area. Since 2019, she has been the community engagement reporter for Montgomery Community Media, where she created the “Hola Montgomery” Spanish-language platform. For 10 years, she worked as a reporter, news anchor, and news producer for Telemundo Washington. Since 2006, Sarralde has also hosted and co-produced “Línea Directa,” a public service television series produced by Edu-Futuro in association with NBC4-Washington and Telemundo 44. On the air since 1990, “Línea Directa” provides Latino families with vital information on public health, educational, legal, economic, and social service issues. Twice nominated for the Community Service Emmy Award, “Línea Directa” has been focused on the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the immigrant community since March 2020. Andrea is a native of Colombia and has a degree in Mass Communications and Journalism from the highly respected Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Bogotá, Colombia, and a Master’s Degree in Community Manager and Social Media Specialist from Universidad of Barcelona in Spain.



## **Jonathan Acosta**

is a Venezuelan violinist, singer, and songwriter.

Jonathan Acosta is one of the region’s leading composers and interpreters of traditional Latin American music. Also renowned for playing the Venezuelan cuatro, Jonathan has recorded two albums -- “Si así llueve, que no escampe” and “Pido Permiso.” His third production, entitled, “#YoSoyLatino,” will be released as a tribute to the immigrant community in the U.S. From 1989 to 2001, Jonathan received musical training at the Conservatory of Music Vicente Emilio Sojo, and for 12 years, he was a violinist with the National System of Symphonic Orchestras of Venezuela. His compositions, like his popular song, “Americano Somos,” have high motivational content, and have garnered Jonathan a devoted social media following. Throughout his career, he has performed in numerous symphonic and popular concerts, and has been invited to participate in musical events in Italy, Spain, Colombia, and Panama. Jonathan can be followed at: [www.facebook.com/AcostaCanta](https://www.facebook.com/AcostaCanta).



## DR. IRMA BECERRA

is the president of Marymount University in Arlington, Virginia.

Born in Cuba, Dr. Becerra immigrated to the United States with her parents when she was an infant. Through these

formative years, she developed a passion for education, which led to a bachelor's and master's degrees in electrical engineering from the University of Miami. A trailblazer, Dr. Becerra went on to become the first woman to earn a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from Florida International University.

Dr. Becerra took office as the seventh President of Marymount University on July 1, 2018. Within her first six months, she initiated "Momentum", Marymount University's Strategic Plan. This ambitious proposal calls for the University to achieve national and international recognition for innovation and commitment to student success, alumni achievement and faculty and staff excellence in five years. Since then, Dr. Becerra has led Marymount through many different initiatives and difficulties, especially the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Drawing from her own education in electrical engineering, Dr. Becerra is a strong supporter and advocate for STEM education. Not only that, but she also understands the important role that faith-based institutions have and plans to raise Marymount's profile and spur growth in enrollment and academic programs. This will be accomplished, in part, through innovative partnerships, scholarship opportunities and broad initiatives.

Before she became President of Marymount, Dr. Becerra spent many years in many educational roles. She was Provost and Chief Academic Officer at St. Thomas University in Miami Gardens, Florida, and also spent three decades at FIU in a variety of positions that include Vice President, Vice Provost, Entrepreneurship Center Director and tenured professor in Management Information Systems. Not only that, but she founded FIU's Knowledge Management Lab and led major projects as principal investigator at the National Science Foundation, NASA (Headquarters, Kennedy, Ames and Goddard Space Flight Centers) and the Air Force Research Lab. She was also a Sloan Scholar at MIT's Center for Information Systems Research.



## WE CELEBRATE OUR CORPORATE PARTNER OF THE YEAR:



For supporting STEM education for immigrant students, and helping to empower youth to become the next generation of leaders who will transform their communities.





## WE CELEBRATE OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS OF THE YEAR:



WEDNESDAY PARENTS GROUP OF  
KENMORE MIDDLE SCHOOL



BAILEY'S CROSSROADS  
COMMUNITY MUTUAL AID

For an exceptional response to the coronavirus pandemic by meeting the basic needs of economically vulnerable Arlington and Fairfax County residents, and enabling others to do the same.



## WE CELEBRATE THE 2021 SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD TO



FAIRFAX COUNTY - DEPARTMENT OF  
NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

For an exceptional response to the coronavirus pandemic by meeting the basic needs of economically vulnerable Fairfax County residents, and enabling others to do the same.



# TWO-GEN APPROACH

## STUDENTS' TESTIMONIALS

## PARENTS' TESTIMONIALS



**María and Deysi Serrano**

Listen to the story of these sisters as they received support from Edu-Futuro, both financially and emotionally



**Yolanda Ontiveros - Parent & Heather Ontiveros - Daughter**

They are the perfect example of Edu-Futuro's proven Two-Generation approach service



**Mariana Gutiérrez**

Participated in ELP I, ELP II and ELP III and winner of 2021 Dr. Marjorie Myers Scholarship



**Eric Pleitez**

Currently a student at Lake Braddock High School. Participated in ELP I and ELP II



**Roberto Alemán**

Participated in ELP I, ELP II and ELP III and winner of 2021 Dr. Marjorie Myers Scholarship

## THANKS TO THE SPONSORS OF OUR 23RD ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

A very special thanks to our CHAMPION Sponsors



Dr. Robert Panfil  
&  
Dr. Katharine Panfil

To our PARTNER Sponsors:



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To our PATRON Sponsors:

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To our GUARDIAN Sponsors:



And to our FRIEND Sponsor: William Kirst

We are a proud partner with AmeriCorps

## Support us through our Silent Auction items

Visit the site on your screen to bid on one of our excellent Silent Auction items and Fund the Need programs. Your generous support will help Edu-Futuro to strengthen our youth and parent programs for the coming year. You can see more items by clicking here as well:

<https://biddingowl.com/EduFuturo>



- The Verandah Resort & Spa is an eco-friendly Caribbean beachfront resort with two spectacular white-sand beaches, four pools, nature trails to historic Devil's Bridge, four restaurants, tennis & fitness center, non-motorized water sports, kids club, mini-golf, mini cinema, and the world-class Tranquility Body & Soul Spa. Perfect for those seeking a romantic hideaway, family vacation or just looking to escape and leave the world behind.



- Los Establos Boutique Inn, winner of TripAdvisor's Travelers Choice Award, is a distinctive collection of comfortable suites and accommodations nestled 4,000 feet above sea level. Spread across 16 acres in the midst of a lush coffee plantation, this charming estate offers panoramic views of the Barú Volcano set against Boquete's green mountains, blue waterfalls, and rushing rivers. All deluxe accommodations feature marble bathrooms, regional artwork, and private patios, allowing for full enjoyment of the fresh mountain air. Amenities such as flat-screen TVs with satellite, plush bathrobes, and Wi-Fi ensure modern comforts coincide with Mother Nature's magnificence. Stroll along secret paths as you breathe in the aroma of coffee and the perfumes of the region's lush tropical gardens.



# Support us through our Silent Auction items

You can see more items by clicking here as well:

<https://biddingowl.com/EduFuturo>

- Treat your friends, family, and fellow wine lovers to a private wine tasting for up to 20 people in the classroom of Total Wine & More store. They will host an event that is certain to impress you and your guests.
- Visit one or all five different venues at Thanksgiving Point: The Museum of Ancient Life, Farm Country, the Butterfly Biosphere, the Museum of Natural Curiosity, and the Ashton Gardens (open seasonally.).
- Whether you're giving one as a gift or treating yourself, you'll want to layer on and wear gorjana's sets daily! Plus, get a \$150 gift card so you can pair any outfit with gorjana's jewelry!
- From the marches and rags of the early 1900s, through the evolutionary sounds of jazz, folk, rock 'n roll and pop, to the cross-cultural expressions of today's connected world, the Museum of Making Music has it all.



You can FUND THE NEED by clicking here

as well: <https://biddingowl.com/EduFuturo>

- Your contribution will serve as a stipend to summer internships for students in our (Emerging Leaders Programs) ELP. We provide students in grades 9-11 with a toolkit of integrative, interdisciplinary, and transferable skills and strategies to support them in their path towards becoming leaders of their own futures.
- Your generous contribution will pay for immigrant and Latino students to participate in our Virtual Stem Program. We offer 12 virtual workshops over a 6 week period. Workshops include "Coding a Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwich", "Video Gaming, by Me", and "Designing your own 3D Soda Can". In addition, the STEM program has several competitions based on these workshops where students work with their Crews and Mentors to complete and pitch a designer product to put their new skills into practice and win prizes.





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