



Andrés Montoya was a Puente English instructor at Chabot College. Andrés was “an activist writer” who had a passion for giving “voice” to the Chicano experience and voice to student empowerment. This award is granted to students who have shown a passion for writing and activism and a commitment to completing their education. Chabot College Puente Project has awarded the Andrés Montoya Scholarship to students since 2000, started by Ramon Parada, who was Andrés’ Puente partner.

### Andres Montoya Scholarship Award Recipients

#### 2016

This year’s recipient solidified her passion when the class listened to an episode of This American Life that detailed how stressful early-life experiences can impact a young person’s brain development. In order to blend her new found passion with her career objectives, she intends to practice family law so that she can settle custody disputes and protect children. Because she recalls her own lonely experiences of attempting to grow up on her own, as a volunteer with Reading Partners she makes sure that young people know that no matter the problem, no matter the obstacles, she (and others like her) are always available to help them get through it. She is passionate about showing youth and her fellow Puentistas that giving up is never an option because no one ever needs to walk the path alone. We are happy to award this scholarship to a strong, proud Chicana, Ms. **Ariana Gomez**

Ariana is an Administration of Justice major interested in transferring to the university spring 2018.

#### 2015

Curious, kind, motivated. Funny, Humble. Hardworking. A Voice for Voiceless. Honest. Exceptional... **Ruben Martinez**

Ruben is finishing up his third year at Chabot and is getting ready to transfer to CSU East Bay as a Spanish major. He is an undocumented student who does not qualify for any type of financial aid besides scholarships.

#### 2014

The **Andres Montoya Scholarship** is awarded by the Puente team to a stellar artist. Like Andres Montoya, this year’s recipient is “an activist writer” who has a passion for giving “voice” to the Chicano experience and student empowerment. You can see what I’m talking about on the Puente t-shirts and on tonight’s program. Please welcome **Erick Cortes** to the podium. Erick Cortes drew these designs that we used for the Puente t-shirt at the Puente motivational conference. He is an Art major ready to transfer to the university fall 2017.

