

# Tomorrow's Leaders Today: Diana Andrea Gonzalez Sanchez

By Nora Weaver



JA Mentor Beryl Silverthorne with her JA Student, Diana Andrea Gonzalez Sanchez, and Andrea's cousin, Oscar Sanchez

Diana Andrea Gonzalez Sanchez, with a Jóvenes Adelante scholarship, just accomplished one of her life's dreams – a university degree in design and visual communication. Diana's JA mentor, Beryl Silverthorne, says, "Diana is a young woman who knows how to dream. When she took her first art history course, she dreamed of going to Italy to see, first-hand, some of the great art she had studied."

Inspired by her parents to follow her dreams and to work hard to achieve them, Diana is on her way to an artistic, creative life. She dreams now of illustrating children's books, making the characters in the stories come alive. Her life-long love of animals causes her to dream of going to Africa to see wildlife there.

Parental support is one of the key elements in the 85-percent success rate of Jóvenes scholarship recipients. Diana's father told her, "I don't care what you study, but you have to study." Diana's mom also encouraged Diana and her brother to study, and committed to helping them by checking their

homework each evening. Both parents worked very hard in their jobs to supply the additional funding necessary for both of their children to go to university.

Through their mother's employer, Diana and her brother were able to study English for several years when they were growing up. As a result, both have great command of two languages. With this family support, Diana and her brother graduated from the prestigious local Instituto Tecnológico Sanmiguelense (ITSES). At her recent graduation, 12 members of Diana's extended family joined the school's graduation festivities to celebrate Diana's achievement. At the school's fiesta, Diana danced with her proud father, who had spoken to her of university since she was a small child.

We hope that you will help other local high school honor graduates achieve their dreams. These worthy young people will not have the financial means to attend university without your help. We currently have financing for only a few of the 25 scholarships we need for 2017. Will you join us with an investment of ~\$120 USD a month, \$1,400 per year, \$7,000 for a student's five-year education? The approximate cost of a designer cup of coffee per day will change the life of one of our extraordinary youngsters.

The Jóvenes Adelante graduation rate represent a much higher success rate than Canada (55 percent), the U.S. (60 percent) or Mexico (22 percent). Jóvenes Adelante scholarships include university funding, a mentor, life-skills training, English tutoring, counseling, a laptop and a supportive network of Jóvenes graduates. As an example, two members of the Jóvenes network have become Diana's great friends.

Donate or volunteer at [www.JovenesAdelante.org](http://www.JovenesAdelante.org) and/or contact President Robin Loving at 415-112-3413, 925-476-8117, and/or [robin@robinloving.com](mailto:robin@robinloving.com).

Silverthorne, says, "I have many interests and activities, but, of the things I do in San Miguel, the ones that always make me happy are mentoring these young people from communities in the campo and meeting their families. In doing so, I feel like I am experiencing the real Mexico."