

Jóvenes Adelante Wows At Annual Student Gathering

By Don Krim

Of course for the new 2019 incoming class the most exciting moment had to be receiving their new computers! Maybe their bank cards too so they can access their JA scholarship monthly stipend. How not?

For the rest of us at Jóvenes Adelante there were other milestones to celebrate:

This year's incoming class of 28 students is our largest regular intake ever. Their final selection from 134 applicants followed months of screening, review, and two interviews by a team of volunteer interviewers - one interview as an individual applicant and the other with their families in their homes.

This brings our current student population to 104!! Just imagine: 104 students, 104 sponsorships, 104 mentorships! That is how large our Jóvenes Adelante family has become!

For the first time, thanks to generous donations to our Betse Davies Special Stars fund, we were able to take students who, on paper, appear to need more financial assistance than our normal scholarship provides. These students will have the opportunity to apply for extra assistance via a separate process, but they were not eliminated from consideration as they might have been in past years.

Over 100 new students, current students and many graduates, several mentors and sponsors gathered together for a presentation on Climate Change by current geo-sciences student Jose Miguel Padrón Velazco.

Several graduates shared their experiences with the new class. Two graduates returned as mentors for this year's class!

We are looking ahead now. Some goals for next year:

Our first order of business, in preparation for the 2020 class, is to improve our outreach to prepa students so we can reach more potential applicants. Pipeline is the order of the day! We'll streamline the application process to cut down on the time it takes, remove undue burdens on the students and volunteers - in essence improve efficiency and effectiveness.

We plan to fund another 30 students to keep us on track to meet our goal of 35 students per year by the class of 2021.

And finally, on a pilot basis, we hope to initiate JA Prepa - support for high school students, and JA Tech - support for 2-year, professional-track tech students.

Jóvenes Adelante unlocks a radically more expansive future for the youth of San Miguel de Allende by easing financial barriers to higher education, and by developing life and leadership skills. To be a sponsor or for more information, please visit website jovenesadelante.org, contact us at 415-150-0030 or info@jovenesadelante.org