

PRESS RELEASE

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Golden Valley Health Centers Foundation Honors Five Cal State Stanislaus Students with Flora Martinez Scholarship Award; Announces Planada Clinic Will Be Renamed in Founding Board Member's Honor

[Atwater, CA] — July 10, 2026 — Golden Valley Health Centers Foundation honored five outstanding students with the Flora Martinez Scholarship Award during a ceremony celebrating the legacy of one of the organization's founding leaders. In a moving addition to the day's announcements, Golden Valley Health Centers also unveiled plans to rename its Planada clinic, currently under construction, as The Flora Martinez Health Center in her honor.

This year's scholarship program drew more than 50 applications, with five recipients ultimately selected for their achievement and commitment to community service. In a fitting tribute to the award's namesake, all five recipients are students at California State University, Stanislaus.

- Matios Anioel
- Gabriella Blandino
- Precious Kate Lacanlale
- Victoria Soares Maldonado
- Maristela Regatillo

The Flora Martinez Scholarship Award is named for Flora Martinez, a founding member of Golden Valley Health Centers who served on its Board of Directors for 43 years, from 1972 until her passing in 2014. Widely regarded as a tireless advocate for the community, Martinez helped shape the organization's mission from its earliest days and left a legacy that continues to guide its work today.

Many members of Martinez's family attended the ceremony to see her legacy honored through the students who now carry her name forward, including Karla Seijas PhD, MPP- Chair of the Golden Valley Health Centers Foundation Board of Directors, who reflected on her grandmother's lifelong dedication to expanding access to quality healthcare and creating opportunities for future generations.

[Recipient: FN / LN]

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*"Flora's legacy of activism and passion for equity lives on in us, and now, in the scholarship recipients. Flora set an example of selfless service—teaching us that no challenge is too great when you're fighting for what's right." — **Karla Seijas, Ph.D., MPP Chair of the Golden Valley Health Centers Foundation Board of Directors***

The Flora Martinez Health Center in Planada will continue to provide the compassionate, accessible care that has long been central to Golden Valley Health Centers' mission, now under a dedicated name that reflects the woman who helped make that mission possible.

Golden Valley Health Centers' annual Scholarship Program continues to honor Martinez's legacy by supporting the next generation of students committed to service and community impact.

*"Flora Martinez believed that healthcare and education had the power to transform lives. Renaming our Planada health clinic in her honor, while celebrating these exceptional scholarship recipients, ensures her legacy will continue inspiring future generations for years to come." — **David Quackenbush, President & CEO, Golden Valley Health Centers***

About Golden Valley Health Centers Foundation

Golden Valley Health Centers Foundation was established in 2015 to advance the mission of Golden Valley Health Centers through community fundraising and charitable giving, supporting patients and families through scholarships, medical cost assistance, and health equity programs. Golden Valley Health Centers is a nonprofit, Federally Qualified Health Center that has served Merced, Stanislaus, and San Joaquin Counties since 1972, growing into one of the largest community health centers in California's Central Valley. Today, GVHC provides high-quality, affordable primary and specialty care to more than 150,000 patients annually, guided by a mission of dignity, respect, and compassion.

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