



ELL FOUNDATION TO AWARD SCHOLARSHIPS, RECOGNIZE PARTNERS AT VIRTUAL BRUNCH

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The English Language Learning (ELL) Foundation will award 36 college scholarships totaling up to \$28,000 to ethnically diverse students in Greater Cincinnati at its Virtual Recognition Brunch on March 20, 2021 at noon.

The event, which will be livestreamed from Mount St. Joseph University, also will honor three outstanding education and community partners with special recognition. Registration is free and open to the public: <https://ELLF2021.givesmart.com> or text ELLF2021 to 76278.



Founded by Sister Margarita Brewer, S.C., and incorporated as a nonprofit in 2006, the ELL Foundation has distributed more than \$150,000 in college scholarships to students representing more than 20 countries of origin.

In furthering its mission of “helping Greater Cincinnati English learners to become successful in their academic lives while fostering their cultural identity,” the foundation also has contributed to the vibrancy and economic vitality that multiculturalism brings to the region.

“The communities of Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky welcomed immigrants beginning in their early history, and the tradition continues today, with national studies in recent years ranking our area as among the most immigrant-friendly cities in America,” said Keith Lanser, President of the ELL Foundation Board. “We are proud to support these academically talented young people, including many who already have overcome steep obstacles and are contributing to our community through service despite the pandemic.”

Recipients of the 2021 scholarships include 15 graduating seniors at seven high schools: Aiken, DePaul Cristo Rey, Hughes STEM, Mercy McAuley, Ryle, Sycamore, and Western Hills. Twenty-one current college students also will receive scholarships to six area higher educational institutions: Northern Kentucky University, Cincinnati State Technical and Community College, University of Cincinnati, Mount St. Joseph University, University of Cincinnati-Blue Ash, and Xavier University.

Receiving special recognition awards are **Educator of the Year Mary Jo Montenegro-Miller**, a school social worker for Cincinnati Public Schools; **Community Ally of the Year Maribel Cortes**, a GE Aviation Senior Technical Project Manager who worked with other community partners to spearhead the Remote Learning Initiative to supply laptops to needy students; and the **Make a Difference Award for the Education Services offered through the Su Casa Hispanic Center** of Catholic Charities of Southwestern Ohio.
