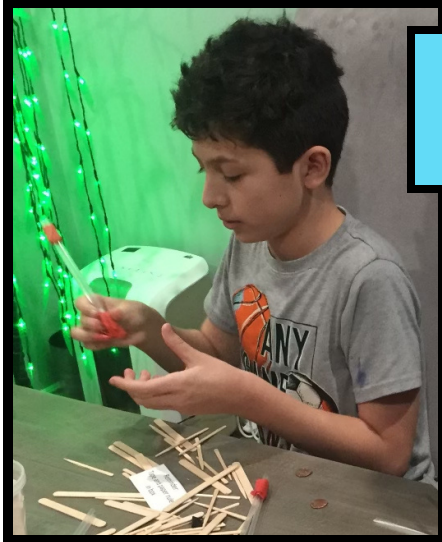




# LOS ANGELES CHALLENGE

Spring 2021 Newsletter



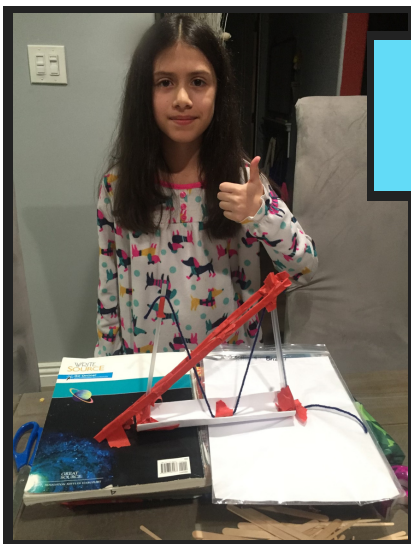
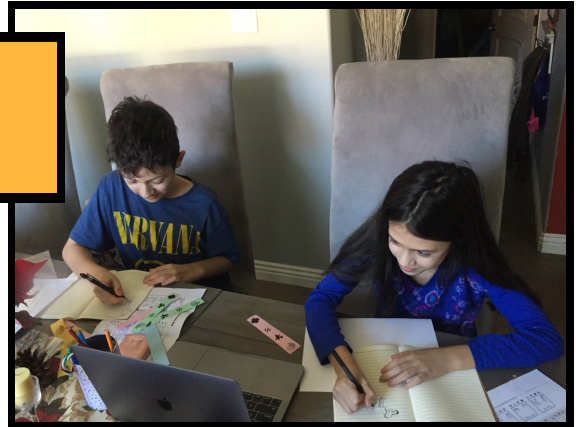
## LAC STUDENTS

*My favorite class was the one where we made bridges out of sticks. It was really fun and I recommend it.*

*-Nathan*

## ATTEND

*Los Angeles Challenge students hard at work... at 6:30 in the morning!*

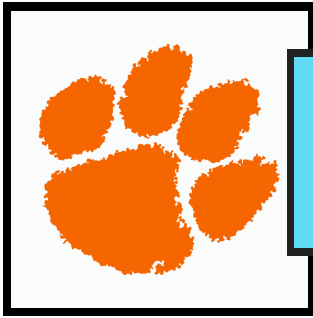


## CLEMSON UNIVERSITY!

*We got to learn lot about science. A project that was very exciting to me was about DNA.*

*I really enjoyed it!*

*-Brianna*



## Clemson University & Los Angeles Challenge

Over the summer, two of our Los Angeles Challenge Scholars had the opportunity, due to your generosity, to attend Clemson University's Remote STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Program for 8–12-year-olds. Each student enrolled in two different one-week classes—engineering and chemistry. One week prior to each class, Clemson sent our students a box of materials needed to carry out the experiments they would perform during class time. Despite having to be ready for online learning at 6:30 in the morning due to the time difference with South Carolina, the experience was a great success as each student learned so much with the hands-on learning as opposed to just watching a lesson via Zoom. Moreover, these classes were most apropos since their schools' labs were closed due to Covid-19.

In the Fall, and again this Spring, Clemson offered our students an opportunity to join their online STEM Club. Each club membership consisted of 6 pre-recorded programs designed to supplement our students' daily "remote" schooling. The students had two weeks to access each program and carry out their individual lab work with Clemson provided supplies. Five students took advantage of this opportunity in the Fall and two in the Spring.

This program was an important enrichment for our students to advance their scientific knowledge during the pandemic when they had no ability to use school science labs or engage in any hands-on learning. We hope to continue our students' interest in STEM fields and encourage them to further participate in online learning opportunities. Our students are hungry for more knowledge and experiences as they prepare for college and beyond; Clemson provided our students with a taste of the kinds of learning many college students receive—and our students are in middle school!

The Board of LAC and our students thank you for giving them the opportunity to expand their knowledge and interest in scientific pursuits.

# Letter from our Board

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*Greg Alessandra*

## CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

In normal times, students make an annual transition as they matriculate from one grade to the next. Currently it feels like our country is on the verge of matriculating from life during a pandemic to whatever comes after that. Certainly we all look forward to moving on. There will be countless studies about the various effects of the last year on all of us. Already there is abundant evidence that the pandemic has negatively affected the academic preparedness and the emotional health of students globally.

Indeed, the students in the Los Angeles Challenge have endured an unimaginably difficult year. Despite this, I have witnessed resilience and dedication among our students. They are working hard, learning, and getting great grades. With your support, we have provided technology, tutoring, mentoring, and guidance for our students and their families over the past challenging year. Sadly, the father of one of our 8th grade students passed away suddenly early in 2021. This student's mom told me recently that her daughter's acceptance into a prestigious high school has uplifted both of them and given them hope and inspiration. She said this was only possible because of the scholarship we provided along with the encouragement and help we gave as they went through the rigorous application process. I am proud that our organization does so much more than simply write checks.

On a happier note, a few of our students told me that, despite all of the difficulties created by the pandemic, some good came from it. Some students said their family became closer while spending more time together. One said that "a united family can overcome any obstacle." Other students gained a new appreciation and respect for the elderly who have needed more protection and care. Finally, one student told me P.E. was much easier on Zoom than with the coach.

Thank you for your partnership with us as we work to uplift these students and their families.

- Greg Alessandra





We are so proud of our SENIORS as  
their college acceptances just

*Keep Rolling In...*



**Octavio S** has been part of our program since 2014. He attended St. Raphael Elementary School and Cathedral High School. He has been accepted to Redlands, Whittier, UC Irvine, UC Merced, Cal State LA, Fullerton, Northridge, and Dominguez Hills. He plans to major in physics.



**Ashley R** joined the LAC family in 2014 when she was attending St. Raphael Elementary School. After commencement she continued her education at St. Mary's Academy and is now looking forward to majoring in nursing. So far, she has been accepted to Mount St. Mary's University, University of La Verne, UC Riverside, CSU Los Angeles, CSU Long Beach, CSU Northridge, and CSU Dominguez Hills.



**Jerry C** was granted his first scholarship with LAC in 2016 as an 8th grader at S.S Peter and Paul Elementary School and will graduate from Mary Star High School in June. He has received the Gordana Swanson Scholarship Award for having the highest GPA in Los Angeles Challenge at the end of his junior year. He has been accepted to Loyola Marymount, UC Santa Cruz, UC Riverside, and in the CSU system Cal Maritime, Fullerton, Dominguez Hills, and Long Beach. He plans to study Marine Biology.



**Ellen Perkins**, our remarkable college advisor has helped these seniors since March of their junior year with the college application process. When their financial packages come in, she will help them and their parents sort through all the fine print so they can make the best choice. We are so grateful to Ellen for all the guidance and support she gives to our students.





# LAC Alumni

**EBONY PERRY**



*Mary Star High School*

LAC alumna Ebony Perry graduated from Marymount California University in 2014, with a B.A. in Digital Art & Design and an A.A. in Theatre Arts with great distinction, multiple awards, and honors. After graduation, she earned a spot in the Getty's multicultural internship program to study gallery management.

In 2016, Ebony went on to study at the Long Beach School of Yoga, where she earned her 200 RYT certification and began teaching community Yoga classes. In 2017, Ebony was hired at Angels Gate Cultural Center as a Public Programs Manager where she helped design and hosted several community visual and performing arts events. In 2019 after continually experiencing the transformative and restorative impact of creativity and the healing arts and sciences through her work, Ebony ultimately decided to dive into Yoga and art therapy, allowing her avocations to become a career path.



*Loyola Marymount University*

Currently, Ebony is studying Yoga Therapy Rx III at LMU, after earning her Level I and II certificates in late 2020. Ebony also proudly serves as an arts instructor, Yoga Rx teacher, and mentor at Seen & Heard LA. The organization's mission is to serve and empower "at-risk" youth through performing arts training and educational workshops. Ebony's next goal is to earn her M.A. in Art Therapy and also considering a PhD in Art, too. She is grateful for the positive impact organizations like the Los Angeles Challenge, Peace 4 Kids, and The Boys & Girls Club of Los Angeles Harbor had on her formative years as a once "at-risk" youth herself. Her mission is to continue to share and pay forward the joy and wisdom of art and Yoga to the next generation.

To find out more on new art projects, portfolio posts, and Yoga workshops/classes, please visit:  
[www.ebonyperry.com](http://www.ebonyperry.com)



## You Can Donate Today!

### By Mail

Los Angeles Challenge  
P.O. Box 4926  
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274

### Online

Please visit the LAC Website  
Navigate To Our "Donate Page"  
[losangeleschallenge.org](https://losangeleschallenge.org)



## Calling All LAC Alumni

We are asking all LAC Alumni or LAC Alumni Parents or Guardians to reach out and say Hello. We would love to receive an update! For more information, please contact our Alumni Chair, Diamond Fischer at [diamond@losangeleschallenge.org](mailto:diamond@losangeleschallenge.org)



LAC celebrates it's 20th Anniversary in 2022!  
More information to come.



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