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Carreon Foundation awards scholarships

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Students from across the Coachella Valley were awarded scholarships totaling more than \$67,000 from the Reynaldo J. Carreon M.D. Foundation on Friday during an awards banquet at the Miramonte Resort & Spa in Indian Wells.

Luis Cardenas, a senior at La Quinta High School who plans to attend University of La Verne as a premed student, was one of 18 students honored.

The Carreon foundation, started by Indio pioneer Dr. Reynaldo Carreon, co-founder of Indio Community Hospital which is now John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital, provides scholarships for students of Mexican descent.

This year the foundation more than doubled the amount of its scholarships for the 2010-11 academic year in response to climbing tuition rates.

The organization increased its top 10 student scholarships from \$2,000 to \$5,000 with the help of Pathways to Success.

Scholarships ranged from \$1,250 for students attending College of the Desert to \$5,000 for students attending four-year universities.

In addition to the awarding of the scholarships, Martin Martinez, another Indio pioneer who helped found the Coachella Valley Mexican American Chamber of Commerce and headed up the foundation for 15 years, was also honored by valley dignitaries for his years of service.

During his tenure, more than \$1 million in college scholarships were awarded to minority high school students.

In October, Martinez stepped down as executive director for health reasons. Former KMIR 6 weekend anchor/reporter Gloria Margarita now serves as executive director.

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