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PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Latino U College Access Awarded Impact100 Westchester Grant
\$100,000 For Educational Opportunity and Success**

June 21, 2016 – White Plains, NY – On June 8th Impact100 Westchester awarded a \$100,000 grant to Latino U College Access <http://www.latinoucollege.org> for the launch of First Gen Forward, a college success program that will support students who will be first in their family to go to college.

The mission of **First Gen Forward** is to increase college persistence and completion of first-generation Latino college students and help students realize their career aspirations. This program will ensure that ambitious and academically strong students achieve economic mobility and success. The program will provide mentors in their first two years of college and career coaching and internship opportunities in their last two years. Helping students who do not have resources or adults at home to guide them during this important time will be critical to their success. Ensuring college completion and career readiness will break the cycle of poverty and transform the lives of families for generations.

“We are truly grateful to Impact100’s generosity and support. The First Gen Forward program will ensure that motivated students don’t just survive, but thrive, helping them get into --- and through completion--- at top colleges and successfully launch their careers,” said Shirley Acevedo-Buontempo, Executive Director of Latino U College Access. “An education is the ‘gift that keeps on giving.’ When you educate a child you ensure that their children and their children’s children will also continue on this path. You help to change a life, a family and a community.”

Impact100 Westchester (www.impact100westchester.org) is an organization made up of philanthropic women working to make a difference in Westchester County. Collectively, they fund “transformational grants” in Westchester County that support unmet needs in the region, and that will transform lives and the organizations who receive them.

“Impact100 Westchester is so proud to be funding Latino U. College Access’ First Gen Forward Project,” said Amelie Kraus, Co-President, Impact100 Westchester. The students helped are great role models for their siblings, families, and all of us. We look forward to hearing about their continued success.”

About Latino U College Access

Founded by Westchester County resident, Shirley Acevedo Buontempo, Latino U College Access is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to increase college enrollment and completion rates among Latino youth who are first in their families to go to college. The organization provides access and guidance to educational opportunity through education, outreach, collaboration and advocacy, enabling students to reach their full academic and life potential.

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