

# Cynthia Sanchez - Ascending Lights Scholar

“As a student, there have been times when I doubted myself. What are my gifts? Will I reach my goal? With the help of my mentor and sponsor at Ascending Lights, I’ve found guidance, a major, and acknowledgment of my achievements. Ascending Lights has been life-changing in so many ways.” Says Cynthia Sanchez, an Ascending Lights scholar who graduated in the spring of 2020.

Cynthia hopes to become a doctor, perhaps a pediatrician. “I can identify with people in pain,” she says. Growing up, my sister suffered from epilepsy and made frequent trips to the hospital. Ever since, I’ve wanted to become a doctor.” She has made amazing strides toward her goal.

At East LA College, Cynthia was on the dean’s list each semester. She was also active in MESA, a program that enables disadvantaged students to prepare for 4-year degrees in Engineering, Science, and Mathematics. And, on weekends, she attended workshops with MED-PEP—Medicos Para el Pueblo (Medics for the People)—a preparatory medical program at UCLA. After graduation, Cynthia was accepted into the Pre-Med Program at USC (University of Southern California). She is scheduled to graduate with her Pre-Med degree and a minor in Health Care Studies in the spring of 2022.

While with Ascending Lights, Cynthia also volunteered at her parish church, answering calls, scheduling community events, and assisting in the



Teen Conformation program. Balancing service with school was no small task for a Bio-Chemistry major. She is still involved in her church. “I’ve learned how much I need the guidance of Jesus, as well at the guidance of the people God has put into my life. My mentor and sponsor at Ascending Lights have opened doors in my life and I’m so grateful. “Thank you!”

Cynthia, once unsure of her future, is now on a path to realizing her dream.



Ascending Lights Leadership Network began in response to the 1992 civil unrest in Los Angeles. The founders, Gary and Marjorie Krauss, felt called by God to help urban churches in Los Angeles (Catholic, Baptist, Methodist, Evangelical, Episcopal). When they met

with the pastors of the churches their response, without exception, was, “Educate our people.”

That has been the mission of Ascending Lights for 30 years: to enhance the crucial efforts of urban Christian Churches to reduce poverty and violence in the poorest areas of Los Angeles County by developing leaders, through a community

college scholarship and one-on-one mentorship. Ascending Lights is proud of its 130 graduates. We are currently guiding 16 students attending 8 different community colleges. The strength of this program is a holistic structure that empowers students to succeed in community college, university, their future careers, and their lives. We also maintain relationships with our graduates.

To learn more about Ascending Lights, please visit: [www.ascendinglights.org](http://www.ascendinglights.org) and as subscribe to our newsletter that celebrates the students. Anne Lobsinger (Executive Director) would be more than happy to reach out and answer any questions you may have.