In 2014, Project QUEST completed its comprehensive strategic planning process. This process included working with local business and civic leaders as well as the Project QUEST Board of Directors. The planning process identified a series of strategic opportunities for Project QUEST. A series of workshops and working sessions were conducted to revisit and revise the organization’s mission and vision statements. The planning process identified a set of strategic objectives and related measures and initiatives to strengthen the organization as well as the local economy.

**OUR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**

1. Identify and develop new strategic relationships with target employers
2. Maintain and test an employer-embedded workforce development model. This grant focuses on advancing low-income working parents into higher-wage, middle-skill jobs. This model provides a pipeline of healthcare workers.
3. Strengthen the relationship with the Community College for Business and Technology.
4. Continue strategic partnerships with current colleagues.
5. Provide technical assistance to San Antoniostruction.
6. Foster a culture of professionalism and accountability through staff development.

**ANNUAL REPORT 2015**

From the Board Chair and Executive Director

April 15, 2016

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Project QUEST was founded twenty-four years ago based on a common vision held by Communities Organized for Public Service (COPS), members Alliance, business leaders, the City of San Antonio, Bexar County, and the State of Texas. We are proud that the past year 2014-2015 was the best year, both in terms of placing graduates and generating revenue. This led to a $6,000,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Labor with the University of Texas at San Antonio to develop IT workers through bootcamp training.

Quest in three years, the ROI is projected to be $9.84 for every $1.00 invested. In five years, the ROI is projected to be $17.67 for every $1.00 invested.

Due to its success, QUEST has been emulated in five other cities in Texas and in four other states—Louisiana, Arkansas, Iowa, and Illinois. Groups from London, England, Southern California, and Las Vegas recently met with us to learn more about our model.

**QUEST**

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Due to its success, QUEST has been emulated in five other cities in Texas and in four other states—Louisiana, Arkansas, Iowa, and Illinois. Groups from London, England, Southern California, and Las Vegas recently met with us to learn more about our model.
QUEST received a $6 million four-year IT grant from the U.S. Department of Labor. The Kellogg Foundation awarded QUEST a two-year $850,000 grant to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to improve the economic opportunities and mobility of low-income working parents into middle-skill jobs. This strategy builds on the DOL grant and collaborates with businesses, as well as the City of San Antonio, Bexar County, and the State of Texas. We are proud that this investment will provide a pipeline of more than 300 well-paying jobs for low-income working parents in the IT sector.

In 2014, Project QUEST completed its comprehensive strategic planning process. This process included working with local business and civic leaders as well as the Project QUEST Board of Directors to determine the workforce development needs of the community and identify the strategic opportunities for Project QUEST. A series of workshops and working sessions were conducted to revisit and revise the organization’s mission and vision statements. The planning identified a set of strategies to increase the ROI and improve the results of our interventions.

**OUR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**

1. Increase the amount of graduate participants and improve program outcomes.
2. Develop and implement a formal participant recruitment program.
3. Foster long-term relationships with our participants.
4. Identify and grow new sources of philanthropic and grant funding.
5. Foster strategic partnerships with the City of San Antonio and other workforce development leaders.
6. Foster a culture of professionalism and accountability through staff development.

**ANNUAL REPORT 2015**

**From the Board Chair and Executive Director**

April 1, 2016

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Project QUEST was founded twenty-four years ago based on a common vision held by Communities Organized for Public Service (COPS), the Metro Alliance, business leaders, the City of San Antonio, Bexar County, and the State of Texas. We are proud that the past year 2014-2015 was the best year Project QUEST has had in terms of graduates placed, job placement rates, and ROI. Our research with Trinity University, completed a study measuring QUEST’s Return on Investment (ROI) for the fiscal year 2014-2015. During that fiscal year, QUEST placed 342 graduates. With the wage increase from pre-QUEST to post-QUEST dollars, the ROI is $3.00 for every $1.00 invested. In these three years, the ROI is projected to be $5.00 for every $1.00 invested. In the future, the ROI will increase to $8.00 for every $1.00 invested.

Due to its success, QUEST has been emulated in five other cities in Texas and four other states – Louisiana, Arizona, Iowa, and Illinois. Groups from London, England, Southern California, and Wisconsin recently met with us to learn more about our model.

QUEST identified three major strategies in 2015:

- **Increasing the amount of graduate participants and improving program outcomes.**
- **Develop and implement a formal participant recruitment program.**
- **Foster long-term relationships with our participants.**
- **Identify and grow new sources of philanthropic and grant funding.**
- **Foster strategic partnerships with the City of San Antonio and other workforce development leaders.**
- **Foster a culture of professionalism and accountability through staff development.**

As we celebrate Project QUEST’s 25th Anniversary, we want to say “Thank You!” for your steadfast support. We look forward to continuing our success into 2016 and beyond.

Best regards,

Hecht E. Garcis, CPA
Chairman QUEST Board

Sister Pearl Crescitelli, CDP
Executive Director
The program is job-driven. The program focuses on training and careers that offer family wages and advancement opportunities. In five years, the ROI is projected to be $17.67 for every $1.00 invested. Dr. Mary E. Stefl, Professor of Health Care Administration at Trinity University, completed a study measuring QUEST’s effectiveness. 75% of QUEST’s graduates are age 18 and over graduated from high school, and 75% have gone on to college.

Evaluations performed by national organizations document QUEST’s effectiveness and impact. The Ford Foundation and the San Antonio Area Foundation provide financial support to QUEST. QUEST has served over 6,243 participants and now boasts a 90% placement rate for its participants.

More than 50 different local businesses and individuals. Information Session (AIS) facilitated by QUEST staff. Other outreach activities with community partners included in the activities and successes over the past year.

Traditional evaluations performed by national organizations document QUEST’s effectiveness and impact. The Ford Foundation and the San Antonio Area Foundation provide financial support to QUEST. QUEST has served over 6,243 participants and now boasts a 90% placement rate for its participants.

5% of the net assets generated by the program are allocated to support community outreach projects, including the绣丽达项目. QUEST's program attend a presentation or an Applicant Information Session (AIS) facilitated by QUEST staff.

The 2015 Graduate Recognition Ceremony was held on June 4, 2015, to honor QUEST students who have completed their program requirements and successfully graduated. The event featured guest speakers, recognition of the achievements of the graduates, and a celebration of their accomplishments. The event was attended by family, friends, and community members.

5% of the net assets generated by the program are allocated to support community outreach projects, including the绣丽达项目.
The program is jobs driven. The program focuses on training and careers that offer family wages and advancement opportunities.

In the early 1990’s, an acute skills mismatch emerged as San Antonio’s economic base began shifting from manufacturing to service- and knowledge-intensive industries. This mismatch was accentuated by the fact that the debate over the “skills gap” vs. “soft skill” mismatch was occurring at the same time.

To strengthen the economy with highly qualified employees for in-demand, living wage careers, the San Antonio Area Foundation and other community stakeholders formed a partnership by engaging in an extensive planning process to understand the dynamics of the skill gap.

In 2002, Project QUEST was developed and implemented to address the regional need for a coordinated and comprehensive effort to improve job readiness and increase the economic competitiveness of San Antonio.

Project QUEST is a critical economic development resource that provides:

- Comprehensive, on-the-job training and placement services for low-income adults.
- Pursuit of credentials that lead to a higher annual earnings increase from $10,818 to $19,477.
- Facilitates collaboration with other workforce development stakeholders.

In 2015, Project QUEST served 1,088 low-income Bexar County adults in their skills training and had 388 graduates that represented 26 demand occupations. Average Hourly Wage at placement was $15.66.

FINANCIALS

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<thead>
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<td>$15,131</td>
<td>$15,131</td>
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<td>Individual &amp; Corporate Gifts (Total Revenue)</td>
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<td>$1,180,043</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PROJECT QUEST is comprised of 17 members, including 10 leaders, 1 career advisor, 1 program specialist, 1 assessment specialist, 1 certification specialist, 1 & alumni coordinator, 1 receptionist, and 1 director of accounting.

The 2015 event raised over $1,500,000 for Project QUEST, including $612,500 from the San Antonio Area Foundation. The community-wide giving event raised over $6,900 which was more than double the amount raised in 2014. In 2015, the event raised over $6,900 which was more than double the amount raised in 2014. In 2015, the event raised over $6,900 which was more than double the amount raised in 2014. In 2015, the event raised over $6,900 which was more than double the amount raised in 2014. In 2015, the event raised over $6,900 which was more than double the amount raised in 2014.

The financial model for Project QUEST is based on the assumption that individuals’ pre-QUEST salaries are supplemented by 20% in entitlement benefits. This ROI is based on the assumption that individuals’ pre-QUEST salaries are supplemented by 20% in entitlement benefits. This ROI is based on the assumption that individuals’ pre-QUEST salaries are supplemented by 20% in entitlement benefits. This ROI is based on the assumption that individuals’ pre-QUEST salaries are supplemented by 20% in entitlement benefits. This ROI is based on the assumption that individuals’ pre-QUEST salaries are supplemented by 20% in entitlement benefits.

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Project QUEST is a critical economic development resource that:
• Provides comprehensive support and resources to program participants to
  understand and meet current and emerging employer workforce needs.
• Empowers individuals to develop a blueprint for a successful career.
• Provides participants the tools they need to succeed.
• Provides comprehensive support and resources to program participants to
  understand and meet current and emerging employer workforce needs.

RESULTS

In 2015, Project QUEST served 1088 low-income Bexar County adults in their skills training and had
$4,437,715 in gross revenue. The net assets of QUEST were $21,000. This community event attracted over 170 runners
and children from the business community and 8 leaders of COPS Metro Alliance. 100%

FINANCIALS

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HISTORY

In the early 1990’s, an acute skills mismatch emerged as San Antonio’s
technology-driven industries. While 14,000 manufacturing jobs had been lost,
economic base began shifting from manufacturing to service- and

350% annual earnings increase

Today’s QUEST is a nationally recognized workforce development strategy that is a vital driver of successful training programs for professionals.
High schools that embrace the economic commitments of their local businesses.

The Program is Jobs Driven

Federal Government

Projected to be $9.84 for every $1.00 invested. In five years, the ROI is projected to be $17.67 for every $1.00 invested.

• Provides comprehensive support and resources to program participants to
  understand and meet current and emerging employer workforce needs.
• Empowers individuals to develop a blueprint for a successful career.
• Provides participants the tools they need to succeed.

PROJECT QUEST'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS IS COMPRised OF 17 MEMBERS, PROFESSIONALS FROM VARIOUS INDUSTRIES AND COMMUNITIES. ORGANIZED TO PROVIDE PUBLIC SERVICE (CSP) AND INTELLECTUAL INFLUENCE.

OUR VISION

For the past 25 years, Project QUEST has been a leading economic development
resource that has contributed to the economic development of San Antonio.

Today’s QUEST is a nationally recognized workforce development strategy that is a vital driver of successful training programs for professionals.
High schools that embrace the economic commitments of their local businesses.

OUR MISSION

To strengthen the economy with highly qualified employees for in-demand, high-wage careers.

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High schools that embrace the economic commitments of their local businesses.

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THE PIG GIVE S.A.

In 2015, QUEST reached out to an estimated 6,600 individuals through AIS, community events, fairs, and
other outreach activities with community partners.

Board of Directors

The board of directors meets quarterly to discuss the financials, recruitment and other critical issues relating to
the organization. Board membership includes representatives from the business community, faith-based organizations,
educational institutions, social media companies, targeted interest groups, and stakeholders from our communities.

Events

In 2015, QUEST reached out to an estimated 6,600 individuals through AIS, community events, fairs, and
other outreach activities with community partners.

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The program is jobs driven
Federal Government 2015,

The program focuses on training and careers that offer family post-QUEST employment. Cost per placement was based on total QUEST expenditures. Projected to be $9.84 for every $1.00 invested. In five years, the ROI is projected to be $17.67 for every $1.00 invested.

Wage increase from pre-QUEST to post-QUEST dollars, the ROI is $3.00 for every $1.00 invested. In three years, the ROI is

Children age 18 and over graduated from high school, and 75% have gone on to college.

Evaluations performed by national organizations document QUEST’s effectiveness and impact.

Today QUEST is a nationally recognized workforce strategy with a 24 year history of successfully planning and

• jobs, but they required skills and expertise that were in short supply among San Antonio’s low-income residents.

Today again, QUEST is a nationally recognized workforce strategy with a 24 year history of successfully planning and implementing training programs for professional, high-salary careers that enhance the economic comprehensiveness of San Antonio’s low-income base. In 2015, the QUEST program served 2,187 low-income adults. QUEST program evaluation documents that 43% of the QUEST participants earned or surpassed their 

Evaluations performed by national organizations document QUEST’s effectiveness and impact. The Ford Foundation has supported QUEST for 20 years, including a 2015 $1.5 million grant. In 2015, Project QUEST received a National Innovation Grant from the Ford Foundation to help promote QUEST as a model and support the growth of a regional workforce strategy. In 2015, Project QUEST receipt of a National Innovation Grant from the Ford Foundation to help promote QUEST as a model and support the growth of a regional workforce strategy.

Hector Garcia, CPA Chair
Don Beeler, Vice Chair
Ramiro Cavazos, President & CEO

Hector E. Garcia, CPA
Ramiro Cavazos
President & CEO

The Big Give S.A. 2015

The PIGGIE GIVE S.A. 2015 event was a huge success and raised over $180,000 to support adults and children in need. 480+ individuals participated in the event that included a kids’ race, moon bounce, face painting and information session. 100 supporters attended the family-friendly event that included a kids’ race, moon bounce, face painting and information session.

In 2015, QUEST reached out to an estimated 6,600 individuals through AIS, community events, fairs, and recruitment takes place not only in brick and mortar environments such as public schools, libraries, places of worship and community centers, but also through social media marketing, targeted outreach efforts and partnerships with other organizations.

With the support of our sponsors, volunteers, and donors, QUEST looks forward to building on the success of this inaugural event and bringing together long-time supporters for an update on the activities and successes over the past year.

PROJECT QUEST is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that partners with local employers to help San Antonio’s low-income residents enter careers that offer family support, financial security, and personal fulfillment.

PROJECT QUEST’s annual budget is $3.5 million, of which 75% is earned revenue. Fundraising, program services, administrative costs and net assets are the major income sources. Net assets make up 25% of our annual budget.

FINANCIALS

The results from Project QUEST’s 2015 financial audit are in, and the Board of Directors is pleased to announce that the organization has achieved a balanced budget for the first time in many years.

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THERE is a huge opportunity for San Antonio’s low-income residents to enter higher-wage careers with Project QUEST. Since 1992, Project QUEST has worked with low-income adults to enhance their skills and find sustainable employment.

The Ford Foundation has supported QUEST for 20 years, including a 2015 $1.5 million grant.

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**2. Develop and implement a formal participant recruitment program**

**3. Foster long-term relationships with our participants**

**4. Identify and grow new sources of philanthropic and grant funding**

**6. Foster a culture of professionalism and accountability through staff development**

In 2008, Project QUEST partnered with the White House on its Tech Hire initiative. This strategy builds on the idea that the local workforce development system must focus on training low-income working parents into higher-wage, middle-skill jobs. This grant focuses on developing an innovative employer-embedded model to test an employer-embedded workforce development model.

Strategic objectives:

1. Develop and implement a formal participant recruitment program.
2. Foster long-term relationships with our participants.
3. Identify and grow new sources of philanthropic and grant funding.
4. Foster a culture of professionalism and accountability through staff development.

From the Board Chair:

April 15, 2016

Best regards,

Chairman QUEST Board
Hector E. Garcia, CPA

Executive Director

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April 15, 2016

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Hector E. Garcia, CPA

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Dear Friends and Supporters,

April 15, 2016

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Hector E. Garcia, CPA

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Hector E. Garcia, CPA

Executive Director

Sister Pearl Ceasar, CDP

PROJECT QUEST received a $6 million four-year IT grant from the U.S. Department of Labor.

PROJECT QUEST partnered with the White House on its Tech Hire initiative. This strategy builds on the idea that the local workforce development system must focus on training low-income working parents into higher-wage, middle-skill jobs. This grant focuses on developing an innovative employer-embedded model to test an employer-embedded workforce development model. This grant focuses on developing an innovative employer-embedded model to test an employer-embedded workforce development model.

**OUR DONORS**

We are grateful for the support of our donors who make it possible for the organization to work towards our strategic objectives. Here is a list of our donors:

- Methodist Healthcare Ministries
- M.E. Allison & Co., Inc.
- Hutchinson Shockey
- Greehy Family Foundation
- Barbara B. Gentry
- Broadway Bank
- Brooks City-Base
- 2,000 & Above
- 5,000 & Above
- Hixon Properties
- CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Health System
- 5,000 & Above
- 20,000 & Above
- 50,000 & Above
- American I.H.M. Province, Inc. (CICM)
- Missionary Oblates
- Valero Energy Foundation
- USAA Foundation
- Frost Bank
- Charlie E. Cheever, Jr.
- Alamo Community College District
- Wal-Mart Foundation
- Mission & Ministry, Inc.
- Baptist Health Foundation
- 20,000 & Above
- 2,000,000 & Above
- U.S. Department of Labor
- 5,000,000 & Above
From the Board Chair and Executive Director

April 15, 2016

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Project QUEST was founded twenty-four years ago based on a common vision held by Communities Organization for Public Service (COSP), National Alliance, business leaders, the City of San Antonio, Bexar County, and the State of Texas. We are proud that the past year 2014-2015 was the best year we had in terms of revenue and growth. Through its relationships with Texas Christian University, the University of Texas at Austin, and the University of Texas at San Antonio, completed a study to measure QUEST’s Return on Investment (ROI) for the fiscal year 2014-2015. During that fiscal year, QUEST graduated 242 graduates. With the wage increase from pre-QUEST to post-QUEST dollars, the ROI is $10.35 for every $1.00 invested. In three years, the ROI is projected to be $9.84 for every $1.00 invested. In five years, the ROI is $3.00 for every $1.00 invested.

Due to its success, QUEST has been emulated in five other cities in Texas and in four other states – Louisiana, Arizona, Iowa, and Illinois. Groups from London, England, Southern California, and Alabama recently met with us to learn more about our model.

QUEST outlined three major strategies in 2015:

1. **Increase the number of workers**
   - From the Board Chair
     - 2015 was the best ever! QUEST had its highest number of participants, $2,088, and placed 362. Dr. Mary E. Stefl, Professor of Health Care Administration at Trinity University, completed a study to measure QUEST’s Return on Investment (ROI) for the fiscal year 2014-2015. During that fiscal year, QUEST graduated 242 graduates. With the wage increase from pre-QUEST to post-QUEST dollars, the ROI is $10.35 for every $1.00 invested. In three years, the ROI is projected to be $9.84 for every $1.00 invested. In five years, the ROI is $3.00 for every $1.00 invested.

2. **Increase engagement with employers**
   - **Professional Development**
     - A series of workshops and working sessions were conducted to revisit and revise the organization’s mission and vision statements. The planning identified a set of strategic objectives and related measures and initiatives to strengthen the organization as well as the local economy.

   - **Strategic Planning**
     - In 2014, Project QUEST completed its comprehensive strategic planning process. This process directed QUEST to determine the workforce development needs of the community and identify the strategic opportunities for Project QUEST. A series of workshops and working sessions were conducted to revisit and revise the organization’s mission and vision statements. The planning identified a set of strategic objectives and related measures and initiatives to strengthen the organization as well as the local economy.

   - **Strategic Objectives**
     - 1. Identify and develop new strategic relationships with target employers
     - 2. Develop and implement a formal participant recruitment program
     - 3. Foster long-term relationships with our participants
     - 4. Identify and grow new sources of philanthropic and grant funding
     - 5. Foster strategic partnerships with the City of San Antonio and other workforce development leaders
     - 6. Foster a culture of professionalism and accountability through staff development

3. **Increase the number of employers**
   - **Development**
     - With $5 million in grants, we were able to expand our relationships and program capacity. The strategy builds on the current 450 grant partners with new partnerships with the San Antonio Area Foundation, SWBC, and Bexar County.

   - **Funding**
     - The Sea Island Foundation awarded QUEST a two-year $500,000 grant to develop and test an employer-embedded workforce development model. The grant focuses on strategies to expand sustainable employment opportunities that will create a pipeline of IT-trained workers.

We are celebrating Project QUEST’s 24th Anniversary! We want to say “Thank You!” for your continued support. We look forward to continuing our success into 2015 and beyond.

Best regards,

Hector E. Garcia, CPA
Chairman QUEST Board

Sister Pearl Cessar, CDP
Executive Director
Nicole Buenrostro – Succeeding Despite Adversity
Life is full of challenges and opportunities. In 2009, I found myself a single mother of four beautiful children who was struggling to go back to school. I wanted to earn a degree as a Registered Nurse (RN). However, trying to go to school and support my family was almost impossible. We lost all of our furniture and our car was repossessed. Eventually, we found ourselves homeless. By the grace of God, I found support in my community. QUEST career advisors connected me to community service organizations that provided shelter for my family, as well as financial support to purchase a car and medicines for my sick children. Through the encouragement I received from QUEST staff and members of my church, I was able to finally complete my program and earn my RN degree. Soon I will find the perfect work opportunity. Adversity is a beautiful part of life. However, it is not our circumstances that define us, but rather how we DEAL with adversity. I trust that God has a plan for us and through Him, anything is possible.

Robert Lloyd – Finding New Hope in an IT Career
I have faced a number of challenges throughout my life. I originally attended the Art Institute, but was unable to finish due to my grandfather’s passing. He was my only support system at the time. I decided to move to San Antonio and was quickly drawn to the Open Cloud Academy and the training they offer. I enrolled with Project QUEST and received assistance in training for Linux Systems Administration. I did not have any industry recognized certifications at the time. The support of Project QUEST enabled me to attend Rackspace Open Cloud Academy, an eight-week information technology training opportunity that provided Red Hat Certified System Administrator training. I began my training in September 2015 and completed the program in December 2015. Today, I am proudly employed at Rackspace. Without Project QUEST and funding from the City of San Antonio and the U.S. Department of Labor, it would have been incredibly difficult to achieve my educational and career goals.

Jessica Lopez – A Nurse’s Compassion Inspired My Career Path
I always knew I wanted to be a nurse. When my grandmother was sick in the hospital there was one specific nurse who stood out among the rest because she showed genuine compassion. I still have that vivid memory of my mother crying about my grandmother’s illness and the nurse hugging her while listening and trying to give reassurance. I knew then I wanted to be like her. I went to college straight out of high school, but I was unsuccessful. Eventually, I started over at San Antonio College and applied to Project QUEST. They were there to guide me through every single step. QUEST also helped financially by paying half of the tuition and all of the supplies, books, and fees. The weekly Vision, Initiative, and Perseverance (VIP) meetings were always informative and helpful. My career advisors kept me on track. With the support of QUEST and the encouragement of my family, I was able to pass my National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) on the first try! My husband and I have since purchased a home, and little by little, our financial situation is improving. I love my job as a Registered Nurse with CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Healthcare and have recently been accepted into their amazing “Versant Program.” CHRISTUS helped me transition into my new role with the assistance of classes and my awesome preceptor. I truly believe in our mission statement, “To extend the healing ministry of Jesus Christ” and I live by it every day. I get lots of compliments from patients and their families, stating that I am “professional, encouraging, calm, and witty.” I know my compassion shows through my work every day.
Clarissa Martinez – Childhood Dreams Do Come True
I was born and raised in Weslaco, Texas and when I was old enough to do so, I volunteered at the local hospital where I discovered my passion for nursing. After my first shift I told my mother, “I know what I want to be when I grow up. I want to be a nurse, care for sick babies, and work my way up to be a charge nurse.” I envisioned my future working in a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). After high school, I moved to San Antonio and enrolled in the San Antonio College of Nursing. I was ecstatic, but also worried about being able to afford school, books, and my bills. I was also working full-time. A co-worker told me about Project QUEST and my life changed forever. The next two years were the hardest of my life, filled with sleepless nights, crying from being stressed out, and wanting to drop out. If not for my family, my faith, and my Project QUEST career advisor, I would not be where I am today. I graduated from nursing school in October 2014, accepted my first nursing job at University Health Systems (UHS) in November 2014, and learned that I passed the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) on Thanksgiving Day. That was appropriate since I had so much to be thankful for. There’s nothing more rewarding than seeing a healthy baby leave the NICU when they had a 50% chance of survival upon their arrival. I’m making a difference and touching lives every day. My work is not just a job for me, it is my dream.

Papy Muco – Escaping a Civil War to Better My Family
I have been in the U.S. for eight and half years. I came here as a refugee with my family. I was born and raised during the Democratic Republic of Congo’s civil war which is still going on. I lost my mother when I was six-years-old and two years later, my father remarried. In 1998 the civil war became intense and my family had to flee from our home. Three years later, my father passed away leaving seven children and my step-mom, who was pregnant with twins. In 2004 we lived in a refugee camp that was attacked by rebels; I was injured during the attack and one of my younger brothers lost his life. We came to live in San Antonio in 2007. We didn’t know English or anyone. By the grace of God, I found a job and a few months later, my step-mom did as well. I paid for ESL classes with the money I earned bussing tables at a restaurant. Life became more challenging and I dropped out of school to get a second job. I persevered and was able to finish my ESL classes. We were not financially stable until Project QUEST came to my rescue. QUEST paid half of my tuition, the full cost of my books and uniforms, school supplies and provided gas money. At one point during the program I struggled in some classes, but QUEST provided tutoring and I was able to successfully pass all my courses. Thank you Project QUEST! I am now an RN. I am financially independent, have bought a house, and have the full potential to keep up with my education. I would like this program to stay so other people can get help. QUEST not only helps QUESTers, but also benefits the entire nation.

Aubrey Moore – Charting a New Course into IT
Before I found Project QUEST, I was working in the food service industry and pursuing an engineering degree. I was in a major car accident and my life underwent some major changes. Because of the injuries I suffered, I was no longer able to work in a labor intensive field. That is when I enrolled in Project QUEST and pursued a career in Linux Systems Administration. I did not have any industry recognized certifications, and thus pursued a partnership with Project QUEST to attend the Rackspace Open Cloud Academy Linux for Ladies. This eight-week information technology training opportunity provides Red Hat Certified System Administrator certification. I started my training June 1, 2015 and graduated on July 24, 2015 obtaining my Red Hat Certified Systems Administrator certification. I am now working at Rackspace as a Linux Administrator. Without Project QUEST and funding from the City of San Antonio and the U.S. Department of Labor, I would not have been able to accomplish so much.

$21.40 Average Hourly Wage at Placement
From the Board Chair and Executive Director

April 15, 2016

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Project QUEST was founded twenty-four years ago based on a common vision held by Communities Organized for Public Service (COPS), Metro Alliance, business leaders, the City of San Antonio, Bexar County, and the State of Texas. We are proud that the past twenty-four years have been our best. QUEST’s board has grown to represent the diversity of our communities. Through community engagement, universities, and workforce development partners, the University of Texas at San Antonio, completed a study measuring QUEST’s Return on Investment (ROI) for the fiscal year 2014-2015. During that fiscal year, QUEST placed 342 graduates. With the wage increase from pre-QUEST to post-QUEST dollars, the ROI is $3.00 for every $1.00 invested. In three years, the ROI is projected to be $9.84 for every $1.00 invested. In five years, the increase from pre-QUEST to post-QUEST dollars, the ROI is $3.00 for every $1.00 invested.

Due to its success, QUEST has been emulated in five other cities in Texas and in four other states -- Louisiana, Arizona, Iowa, and Illinois. Groups from London, England, Southern California, and Maryland recently met with us to learn more about our model.

QUEST inhibited three major strategies in 2015:

• QUEST received a $4 million four-year grant from the U.S. Department of Labor, QUEST funding and placing the long-term unemployed in well-paying jobs in the IT sector.

• Quest received a $1.5 million five-year grant from the Texas Workforce Commission for the state of Texas to develop IT workers through bootcamp training.

• The W.K. Kellogg Foundation awarded QUEST a two-year grant of $600,000 to develop and test an employer-embedded workforce development model. This grant focuses on advancing innovative workforce models to high-growth industries in the technology sector.

In three years, the ROI is projected to be $9.84 for every $1.00 invested. In five years, the increase from pre-QUEST to post-QUEST dollars, the ROI is $3.00 for every $1.00 invested.

As we celebrate Project QUEST’s 24th Anniversary, we want to say “Thank You!” for your steadfast support. We look forward to continuing our success into 2016 and beyond.

Best regards,

Hecht E. Garcia, CPA
Chairman QUEST Board

Sister Pearl Casas, CDP
Executive Director