



William C. Velásquez Institute

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WCVI Launches 2022 Eco Intern Class

Group of distinguished students will participate in WCVI's 12th Class of Eco Interns

(LOS ANGELES) – William C. Velasquez Institute (WCVI) today launched the 2022 Session of the Eco Interns Program to celebrate Earth Day!

The 2022 class of the Eco Interns will see distinguished youth from **Alliance High School, Los Angeles Leadership Academy, Roosevelt High School, West Adams Preparatory High School and Wilson High School** participate in a three-month program hosted by William C. Velasquez Institute. The program's focus is to train and prepare a cohort of Latino high school students who care about mitigating climate change and can learn from experts about how they can be the future vanguards of the planet.

WCVI started the program over twelve years ago, understanding the work executed around LA River revitalization and climate justice must include preparing them for their role as future leaders of our urban neighborhoods. The Eco Intern program was initiated by the late Antonio González.

During this internship, students will learn about our region's watershed health and quality, stormwater capture and reuse, wildlife conservation, LA River history, open space, community efforts to curb pollution, environmental activism/communications, and green jobs.

WCVI President Lydia Camarillo, said "WCVI is proud to host these talented Latino students and connect them to experts who will nurture and inspire their connection to the planet. With each Eco Intern session, we've been so inspired by the intellect, commitment and dedication these students have for their future as environmental stewards".

"I am thrilled to engage with the incoming 2022 cohort, que orgullo! As we know it, communities of color are still being disproportionately impacted by the negative effects of environmental negligence. We live in neighborhoods that suffer greatly from car pollution, noise pollution, sometimes contaminated soil – and as we've seen recently in other states, access to a tainted water supply. It is a privilege to shepherd this class on behalf of WCVI to better equip them with the tools and vision to address these inequities. The future looks mighty bright thanks to them," said **Program Director, Fabian Naranjo Gonzalez, Ph.D.**

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The William C. Velásquez Institute (WCVI) is a tax-exempt, non-profit, non-partisan public policy analysis organization chartered in 1985. WCVI (originally the Southwest Voter Research Institute) is a spinoff of the legacy organization Southwest Voter Registration Education Project (SVREP) founded by the late Latino icon Willie Velasquez. Willie correctly foresaw that Latino voters would inevitably overcome their political exclusion and needed to develop their policy and governance capacity. For more information on WCVI, please visit: www.WCVI.org

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