

Final report to be filled by the institution/organization.

Pl@za Comunitaria

Executive Summary (condensed) from Final Report to IME, May 2018

The impact of Plaza Comunitaria and our partnership with SER and the Mexican Consulate office in Los Angeles has been one of great joy, collaboration, and impact for our staff and the community we serve. The transformation in the individual lives of each participant is moving and inspirational as we observe the impact of continuing education on each participant's life—from age 16 to over 70 years of age.

CABE has a central vision of supporting the HOME-SCHOOL-COMMUNITY connection to bring about greater success for our students and their families. The Plaza Comunitaria Program, under the skilled leadership of Gricelda Perez and Maria Villa and support from the CABE Project 2INSPIRE team, makes a difference in so many ways. This year we were particularly excited to see the growth and expansion of Plaza Comunitaria through the additional funding and support from IME Becas. Based on this added funding, we have been able to increase the number of participants, expand the program throughout Southern California and statewide, and provide information and orientation statewide to increase the exposure and potential for growth of Plaza Comunitaria statewide.

This year, we were able to graduate over **90** students from **six** different locations as well as support the participation of over **150** students and the application of the placement exam in **five** locations.

Through our partnership and implementation of Plaza Comunitaria, we see adult students working extremely hard to complete their goals and assignments. We see the look of hope and aspiration as they work to continue their own education to be more successful in their work and to positively influence their own children and students. We see and feel the challenges, difficulties, and accomplishments of many immigrant students and families. Plaza Comunitaria serves as a bridge and platform for our participants to launch themselves to the next step in their life journey. This year our participants spanned an age range of late teens to early 70s. We saw students who were high school and college age participate along with adults of a variety of ages and time in the United States. Students' goals included completing their education to later be able to attend the university in Mexico; others hoped to be able to better be able to support their students with their homework; still others saw the program as a bridge to be able to take the GED and ESL classes; and, others for personal fulfillment and accomplishment.

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The financial support provided via IME Becas is crucial to the implementation of the program. The incentive scholarships to participating and graduating students play a key role in motivating and acknowledging students' efforts and accomplishments. CABE has been able to also receive support from grants and contracts to cover the salary of the coordinators position and promote the program statewide. Administrative and supervisory support is also contributed by CABE through other funding resources. The implementation of the Plaza Comunitaria program is truly a team effort.

CABE has had several opportunities this past year to join events and celebrations sponsored through Plaza Comunitaria and the Mexican Consulate and the level of personal satisfaction and accomplishment of our students and attendees is very evident. We are extremely pleased and honored to see the program grow in interest and numbers under the increased funding from IME and we are very grateful for that support. With continued support, we project that the reach and impact of Plazas Comunitaria will be even greater this coming year. We look forward to continuing our partnership and support through Plaza Comunitaria and to expand the program across our regions and state.