



Guatemalan Center

of New England



Pursuing a postgraduate professional degree has been one of the most rewarding experiences in my life, yet one of the most difficult. Attending law school has been rewarding both personally and professionally. Personally, I am proud to build upon the hard work of my family. Although I spend many long nights in the library, the stress I must face is minimal in comparison to what my parents, and their parents, had to face. In the age of the internet, my family in Guatemala has been able to follow my personal journey and they never hesitate to congratulate me and send me their best wishes. I have been

given opportunities that they all deserve, and for that, I put my forth my best effort in everything I do. Professionally, law school has challenged me to fight back against injustice using the tools that our judicial system has created. Law school has also enforced my desire to always stay well connected to the communities I care about, regardless of the privileged spaces that I enter or opportunities that come my way. It is not enough for me to have a seat at the table; I want to open doors for others and work collectively. One particular moment this year highlights how I feel. I was chosen to throw out the first pitch at a Red Sox game, and although it was one of the proudest moments in my recent memory, it felt somewhat bittersweet. After I threw out the pitch, I was told that I may actually be the first Guatemalan-American to throw out a first pitch at Fenway. How can that be when Guatemala is the 9th largest country of origin among Boston's foreign-born population and Massachusetts has the 7th largest share of foreign-born Guatemalans living in the United States? And that is just Massachusetts. How can that be when there are so many Guatemalan and Guatemalan-American community leaders spread throughout New England?

The Guatemalan Center of New England, along with the Quetzal Award and other scholarships, has been helping to draw attention to the Guatemalan community and highlight many of these leaders and future leaders. I am grateful for the work that the organization does and for having received one of these scholarships. This award has helped me achieve my educational and professional goals over the past few years. As I mentioned previously, law school has been extremely difficult. It consumes much of my time and energy, it forces me to constantly be in spaces with people who do not share my experiences, and it unfortunately costs a lot of money. This award has helped ease some of the financial burden, but more importantly, it has allowed me to celebrate my accomplishments with other chapines who are doing amazing work. Although I have never lived in Providence, the city now feels like a second home to me. I am grateful to this organization for introducing New England to our rich culture, and for helping young professionals like myself achieve our goals. I look forward to giving back to the community in the same way that it has given so much to me. Thank you!

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