

la BECA

Women's Scholarship Foundation

Bringing Education, Compassion and Assistance to Women and Girls in Latin America and the Caribbean

2021 Annual Report




www.labeca.org
P.O. Box 7064
Alexandria, Virginia 22307

Dear Friends,

Even in a time of global pandemic, La BECA has continued our work of helping young women achieve their dreams through education. Their determination and persistence, coupled with your ongoing support, have meant that they have continued to attend classes and, yes, even graduate! We are always proud of our scholars, but this year, we are even more amazed by their incredible desire for an education.

2020 wasn't the year that La BECA . . . or our scholars . . . had planned on. At the start of the year, we were looking forward to several college graduations. We hoped to be with as many of our graduates as possible – after many years of following their progress, we almost feel like members of their families.

But then the pandemic hit. And in Honduras, a country where La BECA has deep and long relationships, that catastrophe was coupled with two devastating hurricanes. For several days after Hurricane Eta, we heard almost nothing from our scholars. And then, as technology allowed us to reconnect, they began to reach out.

They told us stories of harrowing struggles. They had to take refuge on a roof in the worst of the hurricane . . . they lost loved ones to COVID . . . their schools closed and they were not sure they could complete their studies. And yet, despite these hardships, they persisted and persevered.

Without your support, all their hard work might not have been enough. But because of your generosity, we were able to support our scholars when they turned to us. We paid tuition when classes went online and purchased computers and Internet access so they could keep studying. In all, your support has meant that since

our founding in 2005, we have provided over **\$540,000** in scholarships. To date, we have helped **115 young women** in Central and South America achieve their dreams through education.

Our La BECA graduates include a school administrators, attorneys, engineers, dentists, and business leaders. They also include the first person from her community ever to earn a high school diploma.

In early 2019, La BECA awarded our 100th scholarship – and we have just kept moving forward. This year, **we are supporting 45 young women in four countries –Bolivia, El Salvador, Honduras, and Panama**. They want to be doctors and lawyers, engineers and teachers. They all share the common dream of getting a good education.

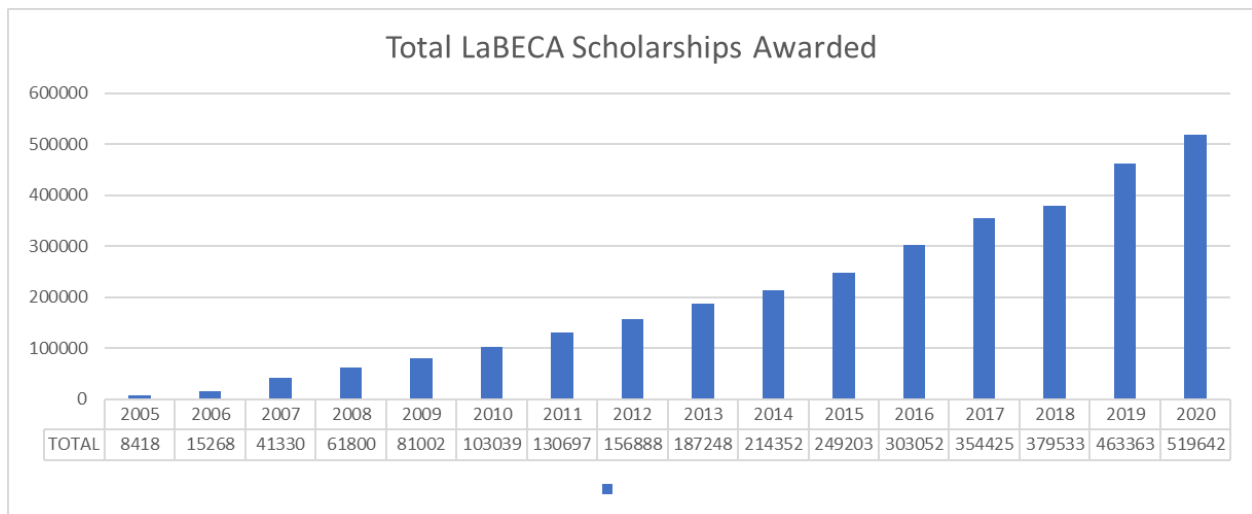
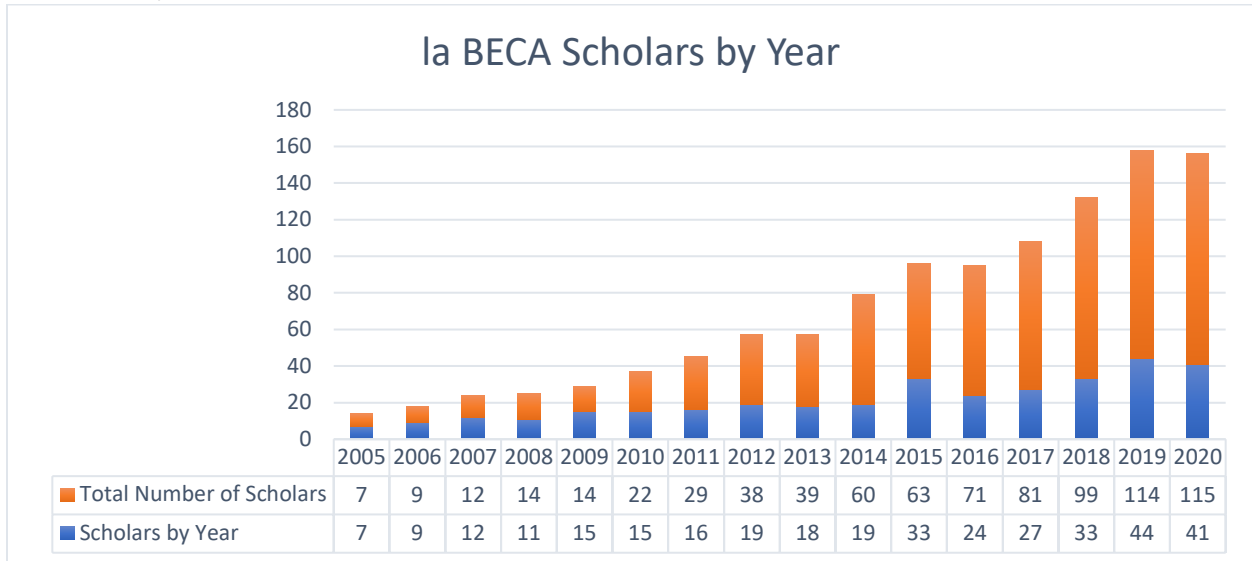
This annual report shares information about our scholars, past and present. We also provide information on our total scholarship contributions.

LaBECA
15th Anniversary



Since Our Founding, LaBECA Has Supported 115 Scholars

These two charts show the growth of La BECA since our founding in 2005. In that first year, we supported 7 scholars in two countries. Today, we support 41 scholars in four countries in Central and South America – Bolivia, El Salvador, Honduras, and Panama. They range in age from elementary school through graduate school. With the funds already expended in 2021, our total scholarships awarded now exceed \$540,000.



“I have taken my first four classes at the University and have passed them all! Thanks to La BECA” - Yulissa

La BECA Scholar Diana Studies the Science of Nutrition



La BECA has supported Diana since she was a student at Holy Family Bilingual School in San Pedro Sula, Honduras. After she graduated from high school, Diana wanted to pursue a career as a nutritionist. It means long hours in the lab, but she is now closer to her goal. Thanks to everyone for your support of La BECA so we can help Diana pursue her dream.



Please Join Us for A Celebration of Perseverance and Persistence

Our La BECA scholars have worked hard even in the face of a global pandemic.

Now hear from them in their own words what La BECA means . . . how they are continuing to move toward their goals . . . and what comes next.

We hope you can help us celebrate these young scholars.

**May 5
7:00 p.m. (ET)
Via Zoom**

RSVP to events@labeca.org and a Zoom link will be sent to you

The La BECA Board of Directors

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