

# The strength of family and education

Inspired recipient is one of nine to receive Roadway Worker Memorial Scholarship



**Each year, The ATSS Foundation** provides scholarships for loved ones of fallen or permanently disabled roadway workers. By offering charitable programs, events, and by spreading the word through public awareness, it is the nonprofit's hope that zero scholarships will be given out as a result of zero fatalities.

The scholarship program provides financial assistance for post-high school education to dependents (children and spouses) of roadway workers who were killed or permanently disabled in a roadway work zone. The program is competitive

and has a value of up to \$10,000. Applicants who demonstrate a strong commitment to volunteerism may be eligible to receive an additional \$1,000 in honor of Chuck Bailey, an esteemed member of the roadway safety industry who passed away in June 2002.

"The Roadway Worker Memorial Scholarship program is very near and dear to our hearts, just as all of our programs are," Foundation President Dave Krahulec said. "We've met so many young adults with inspiring stories and it's beyond rewarding to see them advance and excel."

In addition to its other initiatives and programs, part of The Foundation's core purpose is to help ensure that their dependents academic dreams will continue—dependents like 2019 scholarship recipient Mariela Lara from Ojai, California.

"I'm very grateful to have received the scholarship provided by The Foundation, as I'm sure the other recipients are," Lara said. "Losing a parent is a very difficult ordeal to go through but it is nice to know there are people out there to support you after going through an experience like that."

Lara will study Environmental Biology at Santa Barbara City College this fall. Lara

was fourteen years old when her father, Adan, was clearing a road in preparation for storm "El Nino," when he was struck and killed by a motorist.

"Getting through the loss took a long time and that first day, when we found out my dad was killed, it was devastating," Lara said. "We had seen a Twitter post that said a roadway worker was struck and killed on the stretch of highway my dad was working on and when we saw the workers' trucks pull up to the house, we knew."

Lara said that while it was difficult to process her father's death, she relied on her family for support. Additionally, she said she takes solace in the memory of her father.

"I know my father would be very proud to know I am continuing my education," Lara said. "He used to go over flash cards with me all the time. Education was very important to him because he never got to go to college. Him pushing me to always be better is what still inspires me today."

To support The Foundation's Roadway Worker Memorial Scholarship program and its other initiatives, visit [foundation.atssa.com/Donate](http://foundation.atssa.com/Donate).

## The ATSS Foundation's Core Purpose

The American Traffic Safety Services Foundation exists to promote roadway safety through charitable giving and public awareness programs.