

# HEAD START LEADS TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE



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Having grown up in a predominantly agricultural town, in a low-income household and raised by a single parent, the odds were stacked against me. Head Start helped me beat those odds..."

- DARLINE GARIBAY,  
HEAD START GRADUATE, 1994  
OXNARD, CA



Head Start gives children from at-risk backgrounds the skills they need to be successful in school and life — supporting more kids, families, and communities on their path to success.

My mother came to the United States with many hopes and dreams, working multiple entry-level jobs in order to give us a better life. She enrolled me in Head Start, a program that helped me learn social and communication skills, while preparing me to enter grade school. La Maestra Margot, my Head Start teacher, created an environment where I could safely learn my first words of English, learn through play, and pick up the necessary skills to thrive.

Having grown up in a predominantly agricultural town, in a low-income household and raised by a single parent, the odds were stacked against me. Head Start helped me beat those odds by helping me gain confidence as a learner and giving me a teacher that became a lifelong mentor.

In 2012, I became the first person in my family to graduate from college — with a bachelor's degree in Animal Science from University of California, Davis. In 2018, I graduated with a Ph.D. in Biological and Biomedical Science from Cornell University. I am now a postdoctoral research scientist in New York City where I'm searching for new treatments for type 1 and type 2 diabetes.

I am living proof that Head Start puts children on the path to success!

Head Start children reduce their vocabulary deficit by

**38%**

during the program year.

Source: National Head Start Association. 2018 National Head Start Profile. <https://www.nhsa.org/national-head-start-fact-sheets#> Accessed October 14, 2019

Fast Fact