

Ongoing 100% College Enrollment Rate to be Celebrated, Supported at 3rd Annual *Step Beyond* Breakfast in Santa Ana

Santa Ana, Calif. (April 1, 2015) – In celebration of the **11th consecutive year that 100% of its low-income graduates are on track to complete high-school on time and enroll in college**, The Wooden Floor will host its 3rd Annual *Step Beyond* Breakfast™ on Thursday, April 23, 2015, at its campus in Santa Ana. Local business, civic, and community leaders are expected to gather for the event, which was rated by *Orange County Business Journal* as a Top Fundraising Breakfast Event of 2014. Proceeds from the morning benefit The Wooden Floor's award-winning college and career readiness services and college scholarship program that help level the playing field for the 375 low-income students served by the organization year-round.

Breakfast attendees will enjoy a keynote address from José Hernández who has been named one of the Top 100 Most Influential Latinos in America. Hernández will share how his public school's arts program inspired him to study music arranging and composition, leading him to become the first Grammy-nominated Mariachi leader in the United States and the founder of the successful West Music Company, which specializes in indigenous instruments. He will be joined by Class of 2015 student speaker, Elizabeth Gonzalez, who along with her fellow high school seniors have beaten the odds and are bound for college—outperforming their socioeconomic peers threefold.

Almost all students at The Wooden Floor attend tuition-free and the majority fall under the federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) poverty classification of “extremely low income.” The Wooden Floor successfully helps its students overcome the obstacles of poverty through a long-term arts immersion process, combined with college and career readiness programs and family services. “Students spent up to 10 years with our organization. Through dance, they develop the ability to think differently about themselves and learn how to innovate, communicate, and collaborate—necessary 21st century skills for school, work, and life,” says Dawn S. Reese, Executive Director and Co-CEO of The Wooden Floor.

Many of The Wooden Floor's graduates have been accepted into prominent universities such as **Cal Poly Pomona, University of San Francisco, and Marquette University**, in addition to five University of California schools and 11 California State University schools. Like other alumni of The Wooden Floor currently in college, most of these graduates will earn merit-based college scholarships from The Wooden Floor totaling \$4,000 to \$10,000 over their college career. Many students of The Wooden Floor say that this financial assistance makes attending college possible.

Event Details

Name: 3rd Annual *Step Beyond* Breakfast™

When: April 23, 2015 – 7:30am Registration; 8:00am Breakfast

Where: The Wooden Floor – 1810 North Main Street, Santa Ana, CA 92706

Tickets: \$75 Individual Tickets; Sponsorships Available

Website: www.TheWoodenFloor.org/StepBeyond

Event Underwriters

Lead Class Partners: Capital Group Companies, Inc. • Ginnie & Rich Hunsaker • Gail & Peter Ochs • O.L. Halsell Foundation
PIMCO Foundation • Drs. Donald & Constance Sperling

Class Partners: Bank of America • Jane & Jim Driscoll • Employees Community Fund of Boeing California
Sharon & Terry Hartshorn • Opus Community Foundation • Judith F. Posnikoff
The Charles & Mildred Schnurmacher Foundation

Innovation Underwriters: TROY Group Inc./The Dirk Family • Edwards Lifesciences Foundation • Global Girls Rising
Yvonne & Damien Jordan • Rockwell Collins • Jesse & Jennifer Rodriguez • US Bank Foundation
Wells Fargo Foundation

Creativity Underwriters: Suzi Chavel • Cath MacIver & Jim Slaughter

Encouragement Underwriters: Bette & Wylie Aitken • Patricia & Frank Hall • Ann McDonald • Cyrus Parker-Jeanette
Kathy & Chuck Rosenberger • Richard M. Rowin & Kevin J. Smith • South Coast Plaza
Judy & David Threshie • Mary & Gary Tolar

About The Wooden Floor

Since 1983, The Wooden Floor has touched the lives of over 80,000 young people. From our Santa Ana campus, The Wooden Floor annually gives 375 under-served local youth the tools to live fuller, healthier lives through a unique approach grounded in dance. We make a long-term investment in each of these young people, as they engage in intensive dance education supported by academic and family services that change the way they make decisions, helping them to discover and pursue their full potential. We are proud that since 2005, 100 percent of our seniors have graduated from high school on time and gone on to pursue higher education—a rate about three times the national average for their socio-economic peers.