

**CONTACT:**

Payal Kumar Avellan  
Director of Communications & Marketing  
714.541.8314 ext. 119  
Payal@TheWoodenFloor.org

## OVER \$150,000 NETTED FOR COLLEGE READINESS PROGRAMS AND COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR LOW-INCOME YOUTH AT 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL *STEP BEYOND* BREAKFAST

**SANTA ANA, Calif. (April 30, 2015)** – Over 150 business, civic, and community leaders gathered in support of **The Wooden Floor** at the organization’s campus in Santa Ana for the 3<sup>rd</sup> **Annual Step Beyond Breakfast**. The morning netted over \$150,000 for the college and career readiness programs and college scholarships that have helped 100% of the organization’s graduates complete high school on and time and immediately enroll in college for 11 consecutive years.

Guests enjoyed a keynote address from **Jose Hernandez**, recognized as one of the **Top 100 Most Influential Latinos in America**. Mr. Hernandez shared how the arts played a major role in his journey from being a child of a low-income, immigrant family to forming the first ever mariachi ensemble to be nominated for a Grammy, playing for five US Presidents, and founding a highly successful music instrument company. Mr. Hernandez was joined on stage by Class of 2015 student **Elizabeth Gonzalez** for a Student Address about the importance of The Wooden Floor in her life. “I credit my dance instructors for helping me find my passion and the staff for guiding me and helping me figure out what I want to do in the future. And, to all of you for supporting me and my fellow students in this graduating class on our individual journeys here. Your support is so significant to all of us and has made such an impact in our lives,” Gonzalez told the crowd.

The Wooden Floor’s year-round college and career readiness programs and college scholarships help level the playing field for the 375 low-income students served by the organization year-round. Without support like this, students say, attending college would be an impossible feat. These initiatives, integrated with The Wooden Floor’s award-winning dance education program and family services, encourage our youth to become change agents within their community to ultimately break the cycle of poverty.

### Event Underwriters

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- Lead Class Partners:** Capital Group Companies, Inc. • Ginnie & Rich Hunsaker • Gail & Peter Ochs • O.L. Halsell Foundation  
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### About The Wooden Floor

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Since 1983, more than 80,000 young lives have been touched by The Wooden Floor. At our Santa Ana campus, we annually give 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. 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. [www.TheWoodenFloor.org](http://www.TheWoodenFloor.org)

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*High-resolution event photos are available upon request.*