



Newsletter, September 2026



**Brillantes
Caminantes, A.C.**

Brightening the Future Through Education

**Five new *Caminantes*. Five remarkable young women.
Five big ambitions. Five very bright futures.**

Each of our five new students is charting her own path, but they share the qualities that define a *Brillante Caminante*: exceptional talent, a strong sense of purpose, and unwavering determination.

They were among the 33 young men and women who applied for a BC scholarship this year, beginning a months-long process that asks much more of applicants than simply submitting good grades and a well-written essay.

Yes, financial need is an important factor, but we're also looking for something more: a passion for their chosen careers, a vision for their futures, and the drive to make those futures a reality.

That's where our selection process becomes much more personal. Finalists sit down with our Admissions Committee for in-person interviews and later welcome us into their homes. There, we have the chance to meet their families and learn more about their lives, their goals, and what a university education would mean to them.



Four of our new students—Citlali, Lizbeth, Zuri & Estrella—with their families.

Then comes one final hurdle: gaining admission to their chosen university.

By late July, the suspense was finally over. It was time for the fun part: welcoming our new students into the BC family.



Zuri with her mother, Susana (left).

And there was one more reason to smile: our new students received their brand-new laptops, made possible by the generosity of our donors. For today's university students, a computer is a necessity, not a luxury—and one more way BC helps make sure our students have what they need to succeed.

We wrapped up the afternoon the best way we know how: enjoying some delicious food on a beautiful terrace overlooking Guanajuato's Centro Histórico. What a wonderful way for them to begin their BC journey!

They and their families joined BC's 14 continuing students and others from the BC community for a celebratory afternoon. Our new *Caminantes* met their mentors, signed their scholarship agreements, and joined in *Nuevos Paseos, un Mismo Camino*, a creative-writing and team-building activity that gave everyone a chance to learn a little more about one another.



Lizbeth receives her new ASUS laptop, with her mentor, Alessa Martin, looking on.



Citlali with her mentor, BC co-founder Silvia Salas.

We've asked each of our five new students a question or two—not about grades or their studies, but about themselves. And their answers give us a glimpse of who they are beyond their applications.

And now, we'd like you to meet them.



Estrella

Estrella Vanessa Contreras Hernández

Studying Mining Engineering
University of Guanajuato

Mentor: Rob Langenbrunner

Q: If you could learn any skill, what would it be, and why would you choose it?

A: I'd like to know everything about mathematics. I feel that in addition to helping me with my degree, it would also make my life easier.

Q: If you could make one wish come true, what would it be?

A: To have excellent health.

Guadalupe **Lizbeth** Aguilar Nieto

Studying Public Accounting
University of Guanajuato

Mentor: Alessa Martin

Q: Is there a family tradition that you especially enjoy?

A: Dinnertime is very important to us because it's when we're all together and talk about our day. I love having that time with my family. I also really enjoy the way we celebrate Christmas. It's a very happy day for me.

Q: Do you have any hidden talents?

A: I know how to listen to others and give good advice. I like it when people feel comfortable coming to me when they need to talk or feel understood.



Lizbeth



Citlali

Katia **Citlali** Carrillo Guerra

Studying Public Accounting
University of Guanajuato

Mentor: Silvia Salas

Q: What have you done in your life that you are most proud of?

A: Everything I have accomplished so far after going through a severe period of depression and anxiety during high school.

I can now look back and see the results of all my hard work: receiving recognition for my good grades, completing a technical program, high school, and a dual-education program, getting into university, and becoming part of Brillantes Caminantes, which has been a tremendous opportunity and accomplishment for both me and my family.

María (**Mafer**) Fernanda Molina Juárez

Studying Primary School Education
Escuela Normal

Mentor: Diana Burk

Q: If you became very rich, what would you do with some of the money?

A: I would very much like to use the money to help groups of mothers searching for their missing loved ones, as well as various animal shelters and organizations so they could purchase the supplies they need.

I would make donations to healthcare organizations that need support, and I would also like to provide assistance in the same way Brillantes Caminantes does, so that more young people can achieve their goals through their own hard work.



Mafer



Zuri

Zuriatna (**Zuri**) Ramona Aguilera Campos

Studying Business Management Engineering
Instituto Tecnológico Superior de Guanajuato

Mentor: Mollie Pepper

Q: Is there a family tradition that you especially look forward to?

A: Day of the Dead. Since my father passed away, I lost an important part of my heart.

I really look forward to November because I feel that on that day, despite everything, we'll be together.

I miss him very much.



Preparing Our Students for an Increasingly Technical Future

When Brillantes Caminantes began providing laptops to our students years ago, the goal was fairly straightforward: make sure every student had a reliable computer for university.

These days, however, “a reliable computer” is no longer enough.

More than half of our current students are pursuing engineering degrees, in fields ranging from industrial and mining systems to mechatronics, robotics and automation. These disciplines increasingly require sophisticated software for design, modeling, data analysis, and programming. The computers that easily handled homework and word processing a few years ago can struggle with the demands of today’s university coursework.



BC's entering class of 2025 with their new laptops: Ariadna, Rodrigo, Lupita, Andrea and Agustín, with BC tech Rob Fleming.

And that matters particularly here in Guanajuato.

Our state is rapidly expanding its role in technology and advanced manufacturing, with growing industries in automotive and aerospace engineering, information technology, and electronics. Many of the young people BC is helping educate today will soon be entering that workforce.

Our job is to give our students the technology that will help prepare them for that future.

This year, we upgraded the specifications of the computers purchased for our new students, with faster processors, more memory and storage, and the graphics capabilities needed to run increasingly demanding university software.

But that also made us take a hard look at the computers we purchased for students just two or three years ago. Technology has moved quickly. Their academic needs have moved even faster.

Mechatronics Engineering student
Leo Rodríguez Flores gets acquainted
with his newly upgraded laptop.



We have identified six current students whose computers now need to be replaced so they can keep up with the demands of their degree programs.

Unfortunately, this comes at a particularly expensive time. The rapid growth of artificial intelligence and data centers has created extraordinary demand for the same types of memory and storage used in personal computers. Worldwide shortages have driven component prices sharply higher, and those increases are now finding their way into the price of laptops.

At approximately \$1,200 per computer, replacing all six will require an investment of about \$7,200. But it doesn't take a \$1,200 donation to make a difference. A gift of \$50, \$100, \$250, \$500—or any amount you choose—will help us get there.



**Click Here to
Donate Now**

So much of a university education now depends on having the right technology. For our students, that can mean everything from completing an assignment to mastering the software they'll use in their careers.

We want our students to have the tools they need to succeed. Making sure they have the *right* computer is simply the next step.

Credits

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Supporting Our Students from Start to Finish

We never commit to new students until we know we will have the required funding to support them for the duration of their academic careers. Find more information about donating or making an ongoing pledge [**here**](#).

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