



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **INTERNATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR RECEIVES SCHOLARSHIP TO BROWN UNIVERSITY**

*Johan Beltre Baez is the 11<sup>th</sup> Paterson Public Schools student to be accepted at an Ivy League school since 2012*

\*\*\*Photo attached: Johan Beltre Baez\*\*\*

PATERSON - Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer announced today that International High School (IHS) senior Johan Beltre Baez has been accepted to Brown University on a full scholarship. The scholarship is provided by the Questbridge Scholarship Program, a nonprofit organization that provides higher education opportunities to high-achieving students from low-income families who would be the first in their families to go to college.

“We’re very proud of Johan for acceptance to Brown University,” said Superintendent of Schools Eileen Shafer. “I want to congratulate him and his family and thank the teachers and administrators who helped him along the way. We’re all working to help make students’ academic dreams a reality, and we’re so glad when we see students like Johan achieving academic excellence the way he has.”

“The teachers and administrative team at International High School are thrilled for Johan,” said Dr. Catherine Forfia-Dion, principal of International High School. “He is a dedicated student who is involved in all aspects of the school community. I know that he will continue to excel at Brown University.”

Five years ago, Baez had just arrived in the country from a small province in the Dominican Republic called San Jose De Ocoa. He said he can remember playing in the forest next to his former home with his brothers and helping his grandmother to store water in pots and buckets for use during the week.

Baez knew no English when he first arrived and had few expectations as he navigated a new culture and environment. His hard work and supportive teachers put him on a path to success.

Throughout his education in the District, Baez immersed himself in working towards fulfilling his dream of being the first in his family to go to college. While attending IHS he was part of the National Chinese Honor Society, Robotics Team, Chinese Club, Student Government Association, National Honor Society, and Upward Bound. He also volunteered at the Paterson Public Library, making interactive crafts for young children.

Baez said he intends on earning a double major in biochemistry and visual arts. “With Brown’s Open Curriculum, I will be able to deepen my interest in how visual representation is used in science and also explore my interests in music production and social work,” he said. “I hope to learn about the design and production of prosthetic devices by pursuing medical school or the research field, and I know Brown will give me the platform to follow any of those paths.”

# PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Baez is the eleventh Paterson Public Schools student to be accepted by an Ivy League college since 2012. The others are as follows:

- Isabella Gonzalez, IHS 2022, Harvard
- Stefany Morales, IHS 2022, UPenn
- Mackiah Henry, JFK-STEM 2021, Columbia
- Iffat Anika, JFK-SET 2021, Yale
- Cindy Munoz, IHS 2020, UPenn
- Nicole Velecela, IHS 2020, Cornell
- Amaya Perez, IHS 2019, UPenn
- Jeferson Mendoza, JFK-STEM 2017, Dartmouth College
- Frankcarlos Castro, JFK 2015, Columbia
- Amir Budhai, JFK-STEM, 2012, Columbia

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