



Thornton Fractional District 215  
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## **Two Thornton Fractional North Students Receive Prestigious Posse Scholarships**



*Michelle Valdivia*

**Calumet City, IL:** TF North seniors Jesus Barraza and Michelle Valdivia were recently named Posse Scholars and have each received four-year renewable full tuition scholarships. Barraza will attend University of Wisconsin, Madison campus, on a full tuition scholarship and plans to major in psychology. Valdivia plans to attend University of Michigan, Ann Arbor campus, on a full tuition scholarship and will declare a major in nursing.

During her time at TF North, Valdivia has participated in Action Team, Peer Mediation, Volleyball, Scholastic Bowl, National Honor Society, Sophomore, Junior, and Senior Board, and Student Council.

Barraza has also been involved in numerous extracurricular activities at TF North, including serving as president of the National Honor Society, Mathletes, Peer Mediation, and the Senior Board. He was also captain of the Scholastic Bowl team, section leader of the marching band, and participated in the Action Team, Dreamers Club, Best Buddies, Connections, and the Future Teachers Club.

TF North principal Brian Rucinski stated, "I'm so proud of Jesus and Michelle as they are more than deserving of this scholarship. We are so thankful to the Posse Foundation for giving these two future leaders an amazing opportunity. The entire TF North community is excited to see Jesus and Michelle excel in college and beyond."



*Jesus Barraza*

The [Posse Foundation](#) partners with select colleges and universities and strives to expand the pool from which their partner schools recruit outstanding young leaders from diverse backgrounds. In addition to scholarships, Posse Scholars receive resources and support such as pre-collegiate training, on-campus mentorship, job opportunities, and more. In 2010, President Obama donated a portion of his Nobel Peace Prize award to the Posse Foundation.

Dr. Sophia Jones-Redmond, District 215 superintendent, noted, “I am so proud that Michelle and Jesus will be representing District 215 and their communities as Posse Scholars at their respective universities. This is an incredible accomplishment for these scholars.”

**About Thornton Fractional High School District 215:** District 215 serves the students of Burnham, Calumet City, Lansing, and Lynwood at Thornton Fractional North High School, Thornton Fractional South High School, Thornton Fractional Center for Academics and Technology, and Thornton Fractional Center for Alternative Learning. The mission of District 215 is to provide diverse learning opportunities that inspire all students to become life-long learners who contribute to their community.

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