

Orlando Carrillo, Born in 2004, grew up in the city of Celaya, Guanajuato, in Mexico. He attended Jaime Nuno Primary School from 2010 to 2016, in which he excelled academically and explored his affinity for public speaking. In 2016, he was selected to compete in the Junior Knowledge Olympiad, a nation-wide competition in which he became a national finalist. Afterwards, he attended Francisco Paredes Velasco Secondary School from 2016 to 2019, where he participated in contests such as the National Math Olympiads, in which he reached the pre-national stage in 2016, and several public speaking contests. In 2018, after becoming the Treasurer for Student Government in his school and devising fundraising schemes, he opened his own candy-selling business. Aside from his basic education, he received instruction in English as a second language from the University of Guanajuato and The Institute of Arts and Culture of Celaya from 2010 to 2019. It was at the University of Guanajuato's courses where he would meet Mark Sølbeck, an English teacher who would become his mentor and help him develop his academic and intellectual abilities. In 2019, he decided to immigrate into the United States by himself in search of a better education and more opportunities. That same year he started his Sophomore year at Palacios High School, in which he demonstrated his aptitude for academics. He got involved in several UIL contests and activities such as Persuasive Speaking, One Act Play, and the PHS Swim & Dive team. During his Junior year, he reached the regional stage for Persuasive Speaking. In his Senior year, he reached the Top 10% of his class. On top of that, he got accepted into Harvard's Pre-College Research Institute as a Social Studies student. He is currently working towards finishing his High School education and is getting ready to attend University to study Business.