



### H.E.R.O. Recipient 2018

Juan Garcia has lived in South Lake Tahoe since he was three years old, and will be graduating from Lake Tahoe Community College tonight with an A.A. Degree in Liberal Arts. Juan is a Dreamer and first-generation college student who supports himself financially. He will continue to pursue his goals next year at UC-Davis, where he will complete a degree in Japanese literature and history. He hopes to then begin a career either as a translator or as a teacher. Since Juan began at LTCC, he has struggled financially because of his circumstances, which make him ineligible for most financial aid. In addition, he has been without a car as an LTCC student, walking or taking the bus everywhere, even during winters with heavy snowfall. However, despite such obstacles, Juan has persisted and made the most of his opportunities at LTCC. Juan has been one of the most active students on campus, working part time as a student ambassador for the past three years, and serving this year as Lead Ambassador. Juan has also served as the Vice President of the Circle K Club on campus, donating over 200 hours of volunteer service in this capacity. Juan volunteers for virtually every event that requires student help; these include The Taste of Gold, ISSI, Treat Street for Halloween, and Coats for Kids. Juan also volunteers time to feed the homeless, help the Humane Society, and tutor children in his neighborhood. He has also served on Student Senate at LTCC. Juan was chosen by the LTCC Board of Trustees to receive the LTCC Student Excellence Award. His positive attitude and determination to succeed make Juan an ideal recipient of the H.E.R.O. award for 2018.