



## PRESS RELEASE

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### Fontana Unified Student Named AVID Write-Off Essay Contest Winner

FONTANA, CAAs an Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) student, A.B. Miller senior Maritza Padilla understands that she and her classmates greatly benefit from increased access to resources that establish a pathway to higher education.

Padilla was recently selected as a regional 2019 AVID Write-Off essay contest award winner. Writing on the topic of free college tuition, Padilla was honored at the 20<sup>th</sup> annual AVID Write-Off awards ceremony, held March 21 at the California Theater of Performing Arts in San Bernardino.

"I feel exhilarated to have won the AVID Write-Off," Padilla said.

Julie Orrison, AVID teacher at A.B. Miller High School, gave me great advice. You miss everything that you don't take—so I made this essay contest my personal best."

The AVID Write-Off, an essay contest for sixth- to 12<sup>th</sup>-graders and sponsored by Riverside, Inyo, Mono and San Bernardino counties (RIMS), is a timed writing contest modeled after the University of California's AVID program.

"She is an extraordinary woman whose intelligence, work ethic and kindness are highly deserving of all recognition she receives," A.B. Miller AVID teacher Julie Orrison said.

Padilla was recently named a 2019 Dell Scholar and received a \$20,000 scholarship from the Michael Dell Foundation. She will attend UC Irvine and major in computer science.

#### PHOTO CAPTION:

FUSD\_AVID\_WRITE-OFF: A.B. Miller High School senior Maritza Padilla was honored as a regional 2019 AVID Write-Off essay contest award winner during ceremony on March 21.

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