



*"Celebration as resistance is one of the many ideas I received from my internship. If it wasn't for INVST, I wouldn't be celebrating the awareness of the importance of building a community. With the help of the scholarship I am able to use those couple hours that would usually be spent at a part-time job to connect with the community. Thanks to INVST, I get to learn about the community I'm in and not just be a student on campus, not knowing the community I'm surrounded by. I have always had a passion to give back to the community and with INVST I am able to. Even with life issues, first generation status, and current presidential administration pressure, INVST has built a safe space for me and future recipients who share a common dream."*

*--Current INVST Student and Dreamer Juan Lomeli Ortiz*

*"INVST became a community home that fostered my calling for social change and journey to become a confident leader. This program allows its students to challenge their reality and way of thinking through inclusive dialogues, facilitation training, and creating active leaders organizing our communities to rise above society. I learned that every experience and opportunity I was given broke down deep conceptions of reality I believed to be true about myself, community, and oppositional points of view. I realized and understood the reasons, the structures, and pillars of why communities and myself were oppressed. I now know to put value in my own identities and find who I want to become. INVST was an invaluable experience and resource that has prepared me to give back to my own community as a high school teacher."*

*-INVST Graduate and Dreamer Lupe Lopez*

