



## PATH TO COLLEGE FELLOWSHIP

### MEET A STUDENT: GABRIEL GERIG

Before he was president of his senior class, prior to winning first place for his community impact pitch, and long before he gained national recognition by numerous scholarship foundations, Gabriel was a bright and talented student living in Venezuela. Every day amidst the violence, corruption, and extreme poverty he lived through, Gabriel would sleep with a weapon, doing anything to protect his family. When Gabriel was just 13 years old, his father left his prominent role as an attorney, secretly plotting to help his family escape to the U.S. Four months later, Gabriel hugged his grandmother goodbye, not knowing he was leaving his home country forever.

Gabriel was launched into a new life where the language and cultural barriers both shocked and depressed him. He missed his grandmother the most when sleeping in the small room where his family of four resided in West Palm Beach. He witnessed his father working 12-hour shifts as a pizza delivery man, devastated by the sacrifices his whole family encountered.

In school, he was thrown into a classroom where his native language created even more struggles, both academically and socially. In 2020, Gabriel joined the Path to College fellowship. He soon after presented his ideas for a better English learning immersion program at Palm Beach County's 2020 Community Impact Night. Gabriel's group one, and not soon after he was working with his College coach and staff to apply for the Bezos Scholars program. He was accepted and Gabriel has continued to pursue as many opportunities as possible with the help of our essay coach and mentoring.

Gabriel shows up, leans in, and continues to put his education first, knowing it is his best shot for fulfilling his dream to rebuild the life his family once had. We are so proud to share that Gabriel has been accepted to his dream school and will be attending Harvard University after graduation! Gabriel shares his gratitude for the Path to College program saying, "I know I would have gone to a college, but to reach this level of Ivy League, I could not have done it without Path to College. I know I will have more opportunity and success, and be able to give back and pay it forward."

