

## April 16 Benefit for The Preuss School UCSD Celebrates the Promise of a Preuss Education

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Laura Margoni

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When 3-year-old Amanda Esquivel came from Costa Rica to the United States with her mother, she didn't speak a word of English. Despite the challenges, she made the difficult transition to life in a new country and worked hard to pursue her dream of graduating from college. It was a dream that attending The Preuss School UCSD, on the campus of the University of California, San Diego helped make possible.

"I am so thankful for the experience I had at Preuss," says Esquivel, who was a member of the first class when the public charter middle and high school for motivated, low-income students opened in 1999. "I amassed an amazing amount of knowledge about myself and education, as well as learned to manage my time and prioritize-a skill which has served me well in life."

An active member of the student body and athlete at Preuss, Esquivel continued to stay busy while going to college at UC San Diego. She successfully balanced a major in psychology with a minor in public service while playing soccer for the university as well as the Costa Rican Women's National Team. Since graduating from UCSD in 2005, she has been working as a case manager at a teen recovery center. This fall, she will enroll in the Marriage and Family Therapy program at the University of San Diego, when she will have to juggle work and school in addition to caring for her infant son.

Esquivel will share more of her story and the impact the school had on her life when she appears as the featured speaker at "Celebrating the Preuss Promise-Bridge to the Future." The fundraising fete will be held April 16 at the Hyatt Regency La Jolla at Aventine beginning at 6:30 p.m. The event features a reception and elegant dinner with musical performances and academic showcases by Preuss students, as well as a live auction and "raise the paddle" event. All proceeds will go to benefit The Preuss School.

"Attending Preuss was the beginning of an unbelievable journey," says Esquivel. "I am very grateful to everyone who made the school possible. They have changed my life and continue to change lives every day."

Ranked by *Newsweek* and *U.S. News and World Report* as one of the top high schools in the nation, The Preuss School UCSD is a middle and high school dedicated to providing intensive college preparation for low-income students who will represent the first generation in their families to graduate from college.

With 820 students in grades 6-12, Preuss has a record high Academic Performance Index Score (API) of 894, which is one of the highest in the county. The school is jointly chartered by UC San Diego and the San Diego Unified School District. For more information on The Preuss School, visit <http://preuss.ucsd.edu>.

For more information on "Celebrating the Preuss Promise," call Jeannee Ow at (858) 822-6608 or email her at [jow@ucsd.edu](mailto:jow@ucsd.edu).

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