Mr. Bautista came to the U.S. from Mexico when he was 18 and attended Canada College for seven years. It took him that long because he worked full-time and had limited time to study. In December, when Moises Bautista graduates from Cal Poly with a bachelor of science degree in industrial engineering, he’ll be the first Upward Scholars student to earn a four-year degree.

The goal of most Upward Scholars students is to complete Canada College’s rigorous English as a Second Language (ESL) program and gain English proficiency. Some students stay in college after completing their ESL classes and earn certificates in areas such as medical assisting and accounting. Other, like Ms. Yengle, complete their associate degrees. A few then transfer to four-year universities.

In December, when Rosas Bautista graduates from Cal Poly with a bachelor of science degree in industrial engineering, he’ll be the first Upward Scholars student to earn a four-year degree.

Mr. Bautista came to the U.S. from Mexico when he was 18 and attended Canada College for seven years. It took him that long because he worked full-time and had limited time to study. In addition, he knew very little math. He had to start with pre-algebra and work his way up to the advanced math he needed to be an engineer.

“Al Canada I learned about life,” he says. “And Upward Scholars showed me that there are opportunities to move up.

Upward Scholars provides students with funds for books and transportation — a bus pass or parking pass — to college; laptops for students who need them, one-on-one tutoring with community volunteers, and mentors for students who request them.

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“Al Canada I learned about life,” he says. “And Upward Scholars showed me that there are a lot of people in this community who want to help.”

He recently accepted a job offer from Oracle.

Go to UpwardScholars.org for more information. Email: info@upwardscholars.org. Phone: (650) 383-8449. Address: 3481 Janice Way, Palo Alto, CA 94303.

Gifts to the Almanac’s Holiday Fund benefit Upward Scholars and nine other community-service organizations.

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