

GEOFORCE MONTHLY

Changing lives since 2005



Enrique Morales at the Grand Canyon in Summer 2018.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: ENRIQUE MORALES

In December 2020, Enrique Morales put together his first research poster in order to share his GeoFORCE 12th grade capstone project at the American Geophysical Union's virtual Bright STaRS event. In March, he presented the same poster at the Jackson School of Geosciences 10th Annual Student Research Symposium and was awarded 2nd place in the symposium's high school category, alongside fellow GeoFORCE alumna Lochana Kalyanaraman.

This success is the perfect way for Morales to end his time as a GeoFORCE student and transition into his college career at the Jackson School. After applying for and being accepted into eight different geology programs, Morales decided to attend the Jackson School because of its world-class education and the close connections he forged during his time in GeoFORCE.

"The Jackson School will always have a special place in my heart," Morales said. "Not only is it one of the best geology schools in the nation, it helped shape me into who I am today. The memories and relationships that I formed because of the Jackson School were just too much for me to give up."

Morales is a senior at Uvalde High School. He has been a GeoFORCE student since the summer before 9th grade, but it was his 11th grade academy trip that made him decide to major in geology.

"I traveled with the Houston group that year because of a conflict in schedule and experienced a culture shock," Morales explained. "I saw that they were at a different stage academically and had more opportunities than the major of the students in the Southwest group. I challenged myself to step up and prove that I was in the same league as them by focusing more and studying extra hard for tests. Because of this, I began to truly appreciate geology for what it was."

It will be a big transition from small town Uvalde to the city of Austin this fall, but Morales said he is looking forward to what opportunities The University of Texas, the Jackson School, and the world have to offer him.

GeoFORCE Texas is an outreach program through The University of Texas at Austin's Jackson School of Geosciences that introduces high school students from underserved communities to STEM and geoscience careers through summer field experiences, corporate mentoring, and college guidance. In 2015, our program was honored with the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring—the highest such honor from the United States government. More information can be found on our website at <https://www.jsg.utexas.edu/geoforce/>.



Schlumberger employee seminar.

GEOFORCE ORIENTATIONS

We will be holding vsummer academy virtual information sessions on Zoom for all GeoFORCE students in May:

- GeoFORCE 9th Grade - 5/1
- GeoFORCE 10th Grade - 5/8
- GeoFORCE 11th Grade - 5/15
- GeoFORCE 12th Grade & STEMFORCE - 5/22

All sessions from 10 am - 11am CST

INTERNSHIP & SCHOLARSHIP RESOURCES

- Geoscience Research Programs & Internship Opportunities for Undergrads & Recent Grads
- Scholarships for Undergraduate & Graduate Students
- Scholarships for High School Students

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Questions or comments? Email us at geoforce@jsg.utexas.edu

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: BRIDGES

In early January, Schlumberger hosted a three-day, virtual conference entitled "Building Resources for Inclusion and Diversity for Graduates of Engineering at Schlumberger" (BRIDGES). Ten GeoFORCE alumni attended this event, including new Schlumberger employee and petrophysicist Leslie Jordan, University of Houston geology undergrad Korbin Lawson, and The University of Texas at Austin Jackson School of Geosciences master's student Nicole Gonzalez.

The BRIDGES conference allowed our alumni to meet the Schlumberger recruitment team, discuss new and innovative technologies, explore the Schlumberger work environment through live tours and networking events, attend professional development workshops, and compete in a sustainability design challenge.

"The BRIDGES conference gave me the opportunity to expand my network and learn about a career at Schlumberger," said Gonzalez. "I really enjoyed the live field operations virtual tour and listening to everyone's personal story. In addition to learning about the company, we participated in a case study challenge in which we investigated the technological and environmental impacts needed to maintain safe and efficient operations. We presented our results and my team got 3rd place!"

"We were placed in a small zoom breakout room with one employee for every six participants," Lawson added. "This was especially refreshing for me because the employees were honest and laid back about things when answering our questions. I could tell the corporate wall came down which made things feel as if I knew these people already. Overall, the BRIDGES conference was extraordinary and I urge everyone to sign up for next year."

We encourage our GeoFORCE alumni to attend the next Schlumberger event, open to all majors:

Title: Are you Ready? A Focus on Personal Branding and Networking

Who: College Sophomores - Graduate Students

Date: April 29th, 2021

Time: 11:30am - 1:00pm CST

[Fill out this form to register for the event.](#)