

I am the first child, a new chapter and beginning of my parent's life. I am named Genesis for all these reasons. I was born in St. Maarten, French West Indies and my parents are from Peru. These two different cultures, French and Peruvian, soon met a third, American. My family was blessed with the opportunity to begin another chapter full of freedom, chance and hope. With very little knowledge of the English language, I began my first year of school and my parents searched for work. By the end of the year, English seemed to come very natural to us. My mother spoke Spanish to me at home while my father conversed with me in English. My parents have sacrificed so much to raise my brother and me. As a family, we have sacrificed so much to live here and continue to do so to stay.



I am the woman I am today because of my parents. I am determined, generous and courageous because I have been raised to believe that through hard work anything can be accomplished. Community service is something that has always been very close to my heart. It brings me joy to shine light in others lives. I believe my purpose in life is not to help myself, but to help others. I want to be remembered for not my words but for my actions. The Youth Leadership Development Program has allowed me to change my words to actions. I believe in achieving goals, the good in humanity and the greatness of future generations. Because of the Youth Leadership Development Program, I am the first person to go to college in my family. YLDP has given me the keys to unlock my potential and begin studying to be apart of America's future. No amount of words can truly express the amount of gratitude I have for YLDP. I can only express my thankfulness through my determination to become an educator to help younger generations; my generosity to continue to help my community and program while studying at Auburn University; and my courageousness for wanting to move the world to a brighter future.



Pictured L to R: Genesis Barco, AU Trustee Liz Huntley, AU President Jay Gogue, and Tracy Awino (also A YLDP scholarship recipient)