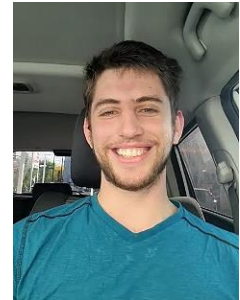




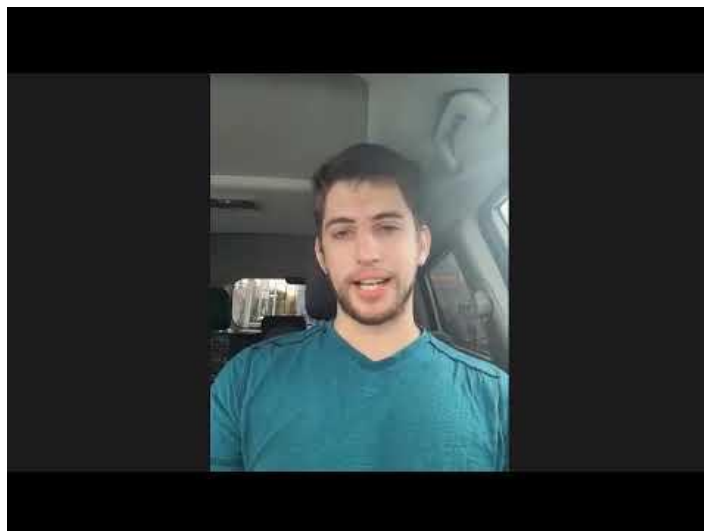
Marlon Fadrugas
North Park University
ACI General Scholarship



Marlon Fadrugas is part of a close-knit immigrant family living in Chicago. He will soon graduate from [North Park University](#) with a degree in marketing and is headed for a career as a Chicago police officer. Fadrugas came to the United States at a young age from Cuba with his parents. After graduation from Chicago Math and Science Academy, Fadrugas chose North Park because of its Christian values, small classrooms, its location in a diverse neighborhood and the scholarships it offered him.

Since middle school, Fadrugas said he has been interested in marketing. He liked the idea of helping people get products and services they want and need through market analysis, advertising and promotion, and sales. Police officers serve people's needs, he said, and he wants to be part of an organization that's changing. "You have to work hard to make sure that change happens," Fadrugas said. "I feel that a good way of doing that is to become part of an organization that right now is going through a lot of change and lot of turmoil, in a way." Plus, he likes doing different things and staying active, which a police career offers him.

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Fadragas finances his own education to avoid burdening his family with tuition costs. He helps pay tuition costs for his sister, Sofia, also a student at North Park. Financially, things haven't been easy lately. A car accident set Fadragas back, and Covid restrictions have affected his ability to work. He spoke to the financial aid staff at North Park, inquiring about scholarships. That's when he learned about and got the ACI General Scholarship, which would help with tuition expenses in his final semester in school.

"It made the world of a difference. I cannot state it enough," Fadragas said. "The difference you guys made in my life, it changed me. It made me feel like I have a second chance. I have an opportunity to make it. I have an opportunity to reach the goal. I'm grateful for everybody that made this possible."

He also speaks highly of his family, which includes his mother and father, sister Sofia and a younger sister. "I've had positive role models in my life, and I had a lot of positive things. My father and my mother, both of them always pushed us to do better and overcome challenges that they faced when they were younger. They wanted us to be better than them. So, it's been a big blessing to me, having the family that I had," he said.

At North Park, Fadragas is a member of the university's Latin American Student Organization. He is a brown belt in judo. He plays congas at this church, Iglesia Mission de Valle in Oak Park, Illinois. Fadragas has multiple jobs, which help finance his education. He does sales and customer service work in the gift shop of the Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago. He is also a delivery driver for the food delivery services, Doordash and Grubhub.