2019-20 Diversity Award
- Community Individual
- Ivan Gabriel Cardona

Maren Aller
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Through compassion, patience and warmth, Ivan Gabriel Cardona embodies the spirit of diversity. Since 2013, he has been working at Fast Forward Charter High as a tutor/mentor supervisor and a math intervention specialist. Cardona mentors, guides and counsels students who need additional intervention due to academic and personal hardships, and he implements outreach events for students to volunteer in their community.

Cardona is an advocate and an upstander who is passionate about providing opportunities to underserved students to continue higher education. During his time at Fast Forward, Cardona has coordinated ACT preparation, presented to classes on the importance of a post-secondary education, assisted students with the college application process, organized campus visits to USU and been a supportive liaison between parents and students. From 2014-2016, he was part of the Global Aggie Program at USU where he mentored a group of Logan High School refugee and immigrant students by providing homework assistance and college advice, and also connected them with volunteer and leadership opportunities in the community.

As someone who is bicultural and an English language learner, Cardona understands the importance of letting students know they should have no shame in being themselves – regardless of looks, origin or sexual orientation. During his time as a student at USU, he cofounded the Latinx Creative Society with three fellow students and Spanish professor Crescencio López González in order to document Latino experiences in Cache Valley through literary and media art such as poetry, short story, documentary and filmmaking. In 2017, the society shared its documentary *Logan, Somos tus Vecinos*. 