

**Stanford University
Stanford, California**

Institution Contact Information:

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TEACH Grant Recipient

First Name: Rafael **Last Name:** Silva

Student Profile:

Becoming a teacher to me represents an opportunity to give students intellectual agency in a time of great uncertainty. As a developing teacher of color, I find this opportunity especially pressing in an increasingly racist and nationalistic country that demonizes the communities I serve. Teaching is unavoidably and unequivocally a political act, and I intend to channel this sense of awareness in my profession into advocacy for our students. The TEACH grant makes this mission possible; without it, the financial burden of graduate school would force me to work part time and distract my focus from the complex and ever-changing profession that is teaching.