

# Cabrillo College FOUNDATION

2 0 2 0   A N N U A L   R E P O R T



## Helping students through times of crisis.

The Cabrillo College Foundation awarded \$636,000 in emergency grants to students affected by the Covid-19 Pandemic and the CZU Complex fires thanks to an incredible outpouring of support from the community. Nursing student Gabriela was profoundly grateful for the help, "I am on track to graduate in December and was able to keep my standing as an honors student, thanks in part to the emergency grant. Thank you for extending a helping hand. It is my hope that someday I can safely accompany my gratitude with a warm handshake and smile."

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# EXECUTIVE MESSAGE

**The foundation provided the college with \$2.5 million dollars in support last year on behalf of our friends and neighbors in the community.**



**"Our students faced an unprecedented hardship from both the pandemic and the wildfires this year. I'm deeply grateful that the foundation was able to rally support from the community to provide a safety net for those affected. Thanks to the many who gave, we were able to award \$636,000 in two rounds of emergency funding. We are so grateful for this support!"**

**— Matt Wetstein  
Cabrillo College President**

**"Since I was a student in 1964, through my 36 year tenure as faculty member and executive administrator, I've always believed the magic of Cabrillo is what happens between the teacher and the student in the classroom, wherever that may be.**

**Our work at the foundation is more critical than ever, so that we can support the faculty, staff, and students through this difficult moment."**

**— Claire Biancalana  
Cabrillo College Foundation President**



**"It's been a challenging year for all of us; everyone has been impacted by the events of the year. I'm so impressed and grateful to all of those who have stepped up to support our students. We have been able to help so many, because of you."**

**— Eileen Hill  
Cabrillo College Foundation Executive Director**

# WOMEN'S EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS (WES)



**"Support of WES is personal for me. I grew up in a home that did not value education and it was not an option pursued. I had great mentors, attended a community college, and in the long run went on to get an MBA. Education changed my life, and I wanted to give back to those where a small need can be met quickly. This can make a real difference – when someone feels cared for they strive for a bigger and better footprint on the world."**

— Tonée Picard, WES Co-chair

## **The Women's Educational Success program — often abbreviated to WES — is a lifeline for so many of our students at Cabrillo.**

Students find that relatively small hardships — the cost of a book or a car repair — can make them consider dropping out of school entirely. WES provides quick relief with grants of up to \$1,000 that are usually received the same week. At our first ever virtual event, recent WES recipient Jenna described the grant she received as a "breath of fresh air" as she struggled to continue taking STEM classes for prerequisites to apply for PhD programs in Oceanography. Laid off from her State Park job at Año Nuevo because of the pandemic, Jenna shared, "It's been tough since February, so I was almost not going to continue. This really did make a big difference, so that I was able to focus on school. I really appreciate all of you that support WES."

The WES committee, known as Best Friends, raised an awe inspiring \$184,000 to support students like Jenna and so many others that need a little extra help to stay on track.



WES Committee members pictured from top right, Mara Palandrani, Tonée Picard (co-chair), Rhonda Bonett (co-chair), Cathy Conway, Freny Cooper, Patty Quillin, Lynette Cleland, Cynthia Druley, Corrine Flanagan, Kristin Wilson, Kate Terrell, Rachael Spencer (co-founder), Peggy Flynn, Angie McClellan, Sue Broadston, Karen Semingson. Not pictured: Peggy Downes Baskin (co-founder), Mary Culley, Pam Goodman, Kathleen Jones, Janet Krassow, Carolyn Parham, Bunny Tavares, Karri White, Donna Ziel

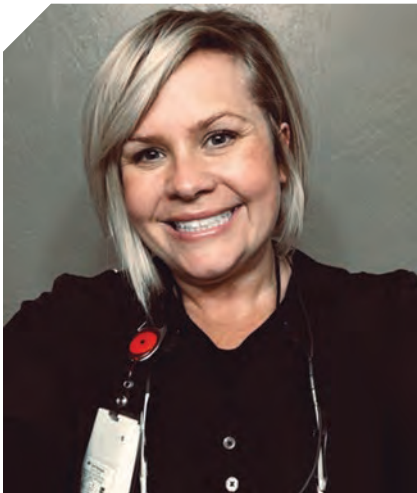
**The Wedeen Hammer Group at Morgan Stanley and The Sharanam Foundation provided a matching grant of \$10,000 that matched gifts of \$250, which encouraged many to increase their gifts — and the entire amount was matched!**

# WOMEN'S EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS (WES)

"I'm a first generation college student and it has been an amazing accomplishment that I get to share with my parents who have worked in the strawberry fields all their lives.

Thank you for making a difference in my life. I'm now an Emergency Room nurse and love helping others."

— Jessica



"At the time I received the grant from WES I was unable to pay my rent and sure I'd have to drop out of the Dental Hygiene Program. That money made all the difference for me. I was able to graduate and become a licensed hygienist!

Thank you a million times over. You made a real difference in my life."

— Carly

"I needed this money when I was going to school because my best friend was diagnosed with stage 3 cancer and I was supporting her through her crisis. That one-time emergency fund helped me pay a larger than usual food and health supplies bill at the end of the month. Thank you so much for your fund! It was a scary time and WES helped me through a trying time."

— Devika





# PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE



**"We consider it an honor to support the President's Circle at Cabrillo. We admire the students who are actively working to improve their lives — whether directly out of high school or looking for a second-chance, Cabrillo is an incredible resource for everyone."**

— Paula and Duf Fischer, President's Circle Co-chairs

**The President's Circle provides core support to the foundation, so that we are able to respond to students' needs with urgency and compassion.**

President's Circle members enjoy benefit events throughout the year. This year, events shifted to virtual events. The community came together over cocktails and goody bags to toast to the success of the students we serve.

We continue to transform lives through education and consider the President's Circle a critical component to our success.

## Committee Members:

### Co-chairs:

Vance Landis-Carey  
Duf Fischer  
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Pegi Ard, Jim Baker, Ed Banks, Pat Barton, Michele Bassi, Claire Biancalana, Mary Blanchard, Jess Brown, Owen Brown, Ted Burke, Linda Burroughs, Ceil Cirillo, Karen Cogswell, Wally Dale, Linda Downing, Lee Duffus, Kristin Fabos, Peggy Flynn, Joel-Ann Foote, Mahlon Foote, DeAnne Hart, Rich Hart, Jackie Heald, Kent Imai, Julie Lambert, Marilyn Manning Lonergan, Richard Lonergan, Fred McPherson, Bob Millsagle, Kelly Nesheim, Ed Newman, Erica Ow, William Ow, June Padilla Ponce, Ginny Solari Mazzy, Rachael Spencer, Steve Snodgrass, Julie Thiebaut, Rachel Wedeen, Matt Wetstein, Theo Wierdsma, Bjorg Yonts

*President's Circle Members enjoy some virtual cheer!*



# PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE MEMBERS 2019–2020

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Edward Newman and Leslie Christie • Patty Quillin and Reed Hastings

## \$10,000+

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*\*Deceased donors are italicized*



## LEGACY GIVING



Marcela Tavantzis and Jesse Plasencia are enjoying a retirement of travel and entertaining friends. From camping on the Baja Peninsula to Europe and South American adventures, they are relishing everything their years of hard work has earned them. Marcela, a civil engineer, retired from local government and Jesse had a long career as a chef.

Marcela and Jesse have made arrangements to leave Cabrillo in their estate plans, "Because community college was a springboard for us to have satisfying careers that sustained us both emotionally and financially, we want to help students with meaningful scholarships, so they can focus on school and their long-term goals," explains Marcela. Jesse is working with the foundation to create a special scholarship for students in the culinary program.

They both want to ensure that the money they leave behind will support deserving students who are on a career path. "It's nice to know that our resources will help a student on their path to become financially independent and earn a living wage. We feel good knowing that we can help in this way."





Kathleen and Ed Banks



Cynthia and Burt Rees



Kevin Rooney, Rachael Spencer,  
and Ron Israel

## Cabrillo College Foundation Donors

July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

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### \$200,000+

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# GUARDIAN SCHOLARS PROGRAM



**Now a graduate of UCSC and a case manager for a local nonprofit, Melissa has come a long way from her childhood in foster care. She gives a lot of credit to her time at Cabrillo and the support she received from the Guardian Scholars program.**

Melissa was a mother of two girls at the age of twenty, homeless, trying to leave an abusive relationship, when Child Protective Services stepped in and placed her own children in foster care. "That turned out to be a blessing in disguise, because I just didn't have a support system to help me, but that experience woke me up and that was my opportunity to really start focusing and figuring out exactly what I needed to do," she recalled, "that really was my wake up call. I was able to get my children back really quickly. That's what led me down my pathway to Cabrillo."

When she got to Cabrillo, she first tried to figure it out on her own, but when she had no way to pay for books she was guided to the Guardian Scholars Program. There she found a safe place to study, people to help connect her with needed services, but most importantly, "It really was a safe space to be vulnerable and ask for help. They're capable people and that in itself creates a sense of security. It allows you to build trust. A lot of people don't realize that trust is the biggest issue for anybody who's ever been in the foster youth system.

It was a very transformational stage for me, and that is why my heart is with Cabrillo. That was the first place I proved to myself that I was right to believe in ME."

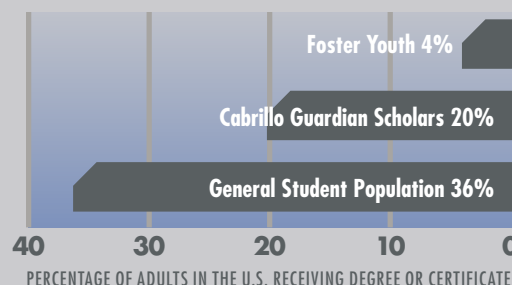
## Thanks to donor support the Guardian Scholars Program at Cabrillo College offers:

- Computers and free printing
- Weekly Academic Counseling, Career Counseling and Student Health visits
- Connections to other campus services and community resources
- Scholarships
- Books and school supplies

## Boosting Educational Attainment

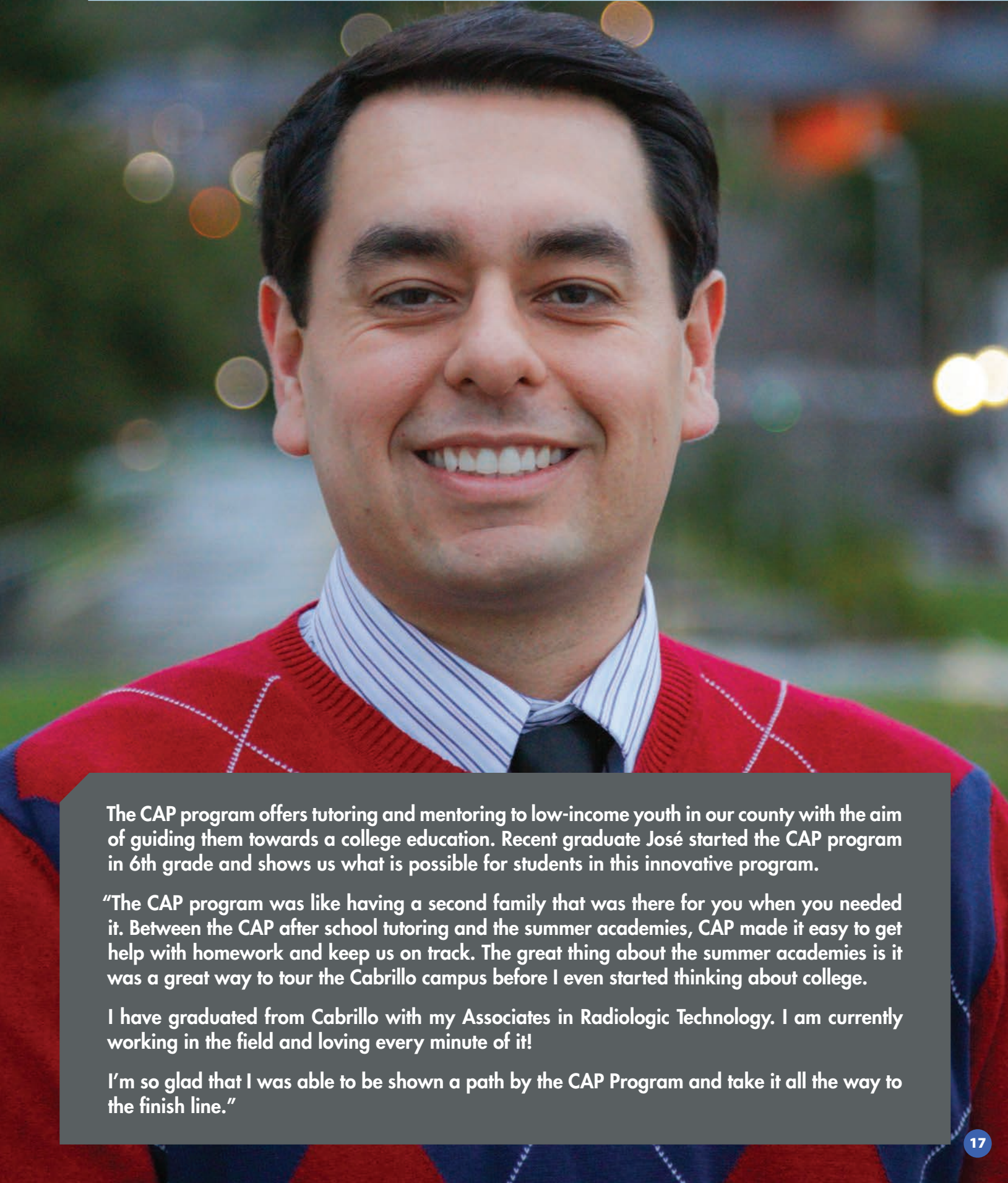
Former foster youth struggle to attain higher education relative to their peers. The Guardian Scholars program at Cabrillo is making progress at closing the gap.

*\*According to John Burton Advocates for Youth*





# CABRILLO ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM (CAP)



The CAP program offers tutoring and mentoring to low-income youth in our county with the aim of guiding them towards a college education. Recent graduate José started the CAP program in 6th grade and shows us what is possible for students in this innovative program.

“The CAP program was like having a second family that was there for you when you needed it. Between the CAP after school tutoring and the summer academies, CAP made it easy to get help with homework and keep us on track. The great thing about the summer academies is it was a great way to tour the Cabrillo campus before I even started thinking about college.

I have graduated from Cabrillo with my Associates in Radiologic Technology. I am currently working in the field and loving every minute of it!

I’m so glad that I was able to be shown a path by the CAP Program and take it all the way to the finish line.”

# SCHOLARSHIPS UNLOCK THE DOOR TO CABRILLO

## 2020 Distinguished Alumni Award — George Ow, Jr.

George Ow, Jr. is a successful product of the community college system and a model of how far anyone can go with a college education. The Board of Directors of the Community College League of California selected him as a recipient of the 2020 Distinguished Alumni Award in recognition of his achievements and generosity.

In 1989, he and his family established the **American Dream Scholarship Program** at Cabrillo College, providing \$500 scholarships to local graduating high school students attending Cabrillo. For over 30 years, the Ow Family contributions to the Cabrillo Foundation total more than \$800,000.

The American Dream is that much closer for the hundreds of local students this aid has helped.



## Colligan Family Scholarship for First Generation Students

Being first at anything is always hard, and being first in a family to get a college education is no exception. A scholarship to ease that burden was awarded to 107 deserving students through the **Colligan Family Scholarship** and celebrated in a virtual celebration in July 2020.

Bud Colligan encouraged the recipients, "We know that education is the foundation of everything and to the extent that you can get a good education then your chances of realizing your dreams is so much higher."

**"Getting to this point was rough for me, especially being a first generation college student. I have a single, undocumented mother, who could not give me educational advice, since she never even got to high school back in Mexico. I have had to get to this point with the help of school counselors, with uncertainty in myself. But I want to set an example for my younger sister, so I will keep pushing forward.**

**Thank you so much for this funding. I will continue studying and make my family proud."**

— Leslie, Colligan Family Scholarship Recipient





## Last year our supporters gave generously to help Cabrillo College Here is the impact:

### IMMEDIATE NEEDS

**\$2.5** million was distributed to the college for student scholarships and college programs



**2,236** students received scholarships

**800**

Emergency Grants for Covid-19 relief

annual gifts make large impacts

available now

### LONG TERM INVESTMENT

This year **\$915k** is being invested for the long term benefit of students



stability for changing circumstances

The foundation has an endowment of **\$27** million ensuring we can help students for generations to come

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## Join us and help a student succeed!

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"We may not be able to meet in person for a while, but I always enjoy talking to the wonderful people who want to help our students. I'd love to hear from you."

— Eileen Hill  
Executive Director

## CABRILLO'S 60TH CELEBRATION



**November 3, 2019 Cabrillo College marked its 60<sup>th</sup> year with a party under a large tent at the Watsonville Center.**

Attended by nearly 300 alumni, staff and friends of Cabrillo, the event kicked off with a performance by Cheryl Anderson's Choral Program Students.

It was a special moment to remember the visionary words of founding president, Robert Swenson:

*"In our small corner of the world, we formed an institution called a community college, often referred to as democracy's college, and charged it with the task of serving people of all ages and backgrounds."*

*Cabrillo's Sammy the Seahawk greets founding trustee Hal Hyde at the celebration. Sadly, Hal passed away this fall. "It is hard to put into words how much Hal meant to Cabrillo College and the education landscape of this county. He was a builder of incredible institutions that have state, national, and even international significance. He gave his all in support of our county and our community's students," said Matt Wetstein, Cabrillo College President and Superintendent. "All of us at Cabrillo are proud to honor his legacy of giving back to the community."*