

Cabrillo College FOUNDATION

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



The Cabrillo College Foundation awarded over \$1.5 Million in scholarships this year.

The students pictured above are just a few of the nearly 1,600 students who received support to pursue their education at Cabrillo College. Our generous community of givers make it possible for students to aim high and follow their dreams.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS — PUTTING STUDENTS FIRST

Our volunteer Board Members work tirelessly to remove barriers for students and make the hopes and dreams of higher education possible for all students in our community.



Cabrillo College Foundation Board Members:

Front row: Amy Lehman-Sexton, Eileen Hill, Sesario Escoto, Karen Semingson, Matt Wetstein **Second Row:** Trevor Strudley, Kathryn Cowan, Vance Landis-Carey, Kristin Wilson **Third row:** Pegi Ard, Rachael Spencer, Bradley Olin, Julie Thiebaut, Karen Cogswell **Fourth Row:** Ed Newman, Spenser Russell, Cory Ray, Donna Ziel, Travaris Harris **Back row:** Rick Li Fo Sjoe, Rob Allen, Ron Sekkel, Dan Rothwell, Diane Koenig **Not pictured:** Michele Bassi, Jan Furman, Rene Mendez, Erica Ow, Patty Quillin, Kate Terrell, Rachel Wedeen

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE

“We’re united in our goal of providing a high-quality, diverse curriculum that is accessible and affordable to all in our community,” said Rachel Wedeen, Cabrillo College Foundation President.

Education offers hope to those who aim to improve their lives. The Cabrillo College Foundation is proud to have provided \$2.7 million to make higher education a reality for those with big dreams.

In this report you will meet a small representation of the many hard-working, ambitious, and talented students who benefit from our support and see the incredible value of our investment in each and every one of these deserving students.



Cabrillo College President Matt Wetstein, Cabrillo College Foundation President Rachel Wedeen, Cabrillo College Foundation Executive Director Eileen Hill

“It’s extremely rewarding,” exclaims Liz Dominguez, on being the CAP Coordinator since 1993. “I have 6 years with these students — and it’s not just the kids, I get attached to their families as well! I see them in the grocery store, Costco, you name it — my kids used to find me sitting with my CAP families at football games,” she laughs.

Back in 1991, the Cabrillo Advancement Program (CAP) was created to shepherd financially disadvantaged students from middle school to Cabrillo College. When Liz was tapped to coordinate the program, she was thrilled. “Working with young people, that’s my jam!” she says with typical enthusiasm. She knows these students inside and out and knows they have a lot of obstacles.

Liz oversees tutoring, Summer Institutes, and other activities that give young students a taste of the many opportunities waiting for them at Cabrillo. She helps them see the possibilities of higher education and the future that it holds. “What defines success?” she asks. “People tend to zero in on a kid who goes straight to a four-year college, but I love to help those kids on the ‘struggle bus’ blossom. They end up working all over the county with good jobs, doctors, teachers — I’m proud of all of them.”



Liz at the CAP Summer Institute in 2011



THE AMERICAN DREAM GETS A BOOST



The Ow Family continues their tradition of welcoming high school seniors to Cabrillo with a scholarship for local students. Now in its 34th year, over \$700,000 has been awarded.



My parents immigrated from Mexico with the dream of providing a better education and future for us. Growing up, I witnessed their sacrifices and hard work in the agriculture industry. This has inspired me to pursue a career in criminal justice, with the goal of giving back to my community and supporting my family.

I plan on attending Cabrillo College, where I hope to obtain my associate degree in criminal justice.

I am grateful for the opportunity to take one step closer to achieving my aspirations.

Once again, I express my deepest appreciation to you for your generosity and support. Thank you for helping me make my dreams a reality.

Juana

American Dream Scholarship Recipient

The Brian and Patti Herman Second Year Scholarship builds on the generosity of the Ow Family and offers further support to our local students in their second year at Cabrillo College.

Donnie Veal's office walls have photos from proud moments, like being the keynote speaker at his graduation from UCSC, but also a group shot from his time running with gangs in San Jose. "My lived experience is my greatest weapon," he explains.

Donnie spent 23 years in prison, but grabbed hold of his opportunity for education when he was released. For a public speaking class while in jail, he researched return-to-prison rates and learned about the positive impact that education makes. "There is a 75% chance that someone will go back, but each level of education improves that - you get some high school and it goes down to 55%, an AA gets you 15%, if you get a Masters or PhD the chance goes down to zero. That was my inspiration."

And now he'll be offering that inspiration through the new Rising Scholars program at Cabrillo. With initial funding from the Monterey Peninsula Foundation, Donnie is helping those impacted by the criminal justice system connect with opportunities at Cabrillo.

"School is filled with people who are seed planters, and they throw a lot of seeds into your earth — and whatever starts to grow from that, that's what they nourish. Now I'm a seed planter, selling freedom through education."





I am so grateful for your motivation and support in continuing higher education. Cabrillo College was just the beginning of my educational journey and it will always be held close to my heart as the community there has been so uplifting. It's a place where I feel accepted and encouraged to find the learning experience that fits best for me.

My goal of pursuing higher education is important to me so I can give back to the community and make a difference in the world. Going to college is a huge privilege and a gift. Thank you for your generosity and encouragement in supporting myself and many other students at Cabrillo.

Ellia B.

Beth Blanchette Memorial Endowed Scholarship



I am writing to express my heartfelt gratitude for the scholarship that I have been awarded. Words cannot adequately convey how thankful I am for this incredible opportunity.

As a student with limited financial resources, this scholarship means the world to me. It will help me cover my tuition fees and living expenses, allowing me to focus on my studies without worrying about financial constraints. More importantly, this scholarship has given me a sense of hope and motivation to pursue my academic goals.

Once again, I am grateful beyond words for this scholarship. It is not just a financial aid, but a life-changing opportunity that will have a positive impact on my academic and personal development. I promise to make the most of this opportunity and to use my education to make a meaningful contribution to society.

Enrique S.

Mary B. Ratcliff Engineering Endowed Scholarship

1,600 students received awards



I want to share with you that I have had my eye and heart set on this scholarship ever since I decided to go back to school to fulfill my dream of entering an MD/PhD program.

Deciding to become a physician in my early 30's has hands down been the hardest thing I have ever decided to do. I grew up in a low-income immigrant household hearing stories about how my great grandmother was uneducated but gifted in midwifery and the healing arts. It is an honor to be walking in her shoes and to do what she was never allowed to do due to the patriarchal constraints of the world she was born into. Thank you so much for believing in my journey and awarding me this grant.

Nadia P.

Carol M. Symons Memorial Endowed Scholarship



I am an aerospace engineering student transferring to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo this fall. I've come a long way since my first class at Cabrillo when I was unsure what I wanted to do. Fast forward to today I couldn't imagine my life without physics, engineering and the direction I am headed. It really does feel like I've been whacked on the side of the head, which I am grateful for.

I am a first generation college student and choosing to go to college was my own finding. I look forward to using this scholarship to help pay for my schooling. I have found that with engineering I am able to pursue my passions while also finding a secure industry to work in. I am passionate about advancing rocket technology, building decentralized monetary systems, creating sustainable energy sources and ultimately helping improve the quality of the human experience.

Thank you for supporting my journey!

Ryan P.

Whack on the Side of the Head Scholarship

\$1,500,000 scholarship dollars awarded

EMERGENCY GRANTS: FOR BUMPS ALONG THE ROAD



Being able to provide immediate relief when a student has a financial crisis is the mission of WES and I'm proud to be a part of it. Helping students stay in school is incredibly rewarding.

Angie McClellan
2023 WES Co-Chair

Thanks to Women's Educational Success (WES), when we learn of a student in need, we are able to quickly provide a grant up to \$1,000 dollars — usually within the same week. Students who one moment may consider dropping out are given a quick cash boost to continue their academic pursuits and stay in school. It's a small amount of money, that comes just at the right time to save the day.

This year, WES is awarding \$115,000 to students — the largest amount to date! This outpouring of support is made possible by the community volunteers (pictured below) who reach out to their networks to encourage philanthropy and spread the word about this life-changing program.

The Sharanam Foundation and the Wedeen Hammer Locatelli group are matching all gifts of \$250 or more up to \$20,000 this year!



Front row from left to right: Gail Pellerin, Edna Elkins, Peggy Flynn, Bunny Tavares, Sara Clarenbach (retired), Karen Semington, Jessica Locatelli, Kathryn Cowan, Eva Acosta, Cynthia FitzGerald, Amy Ivey **Back row:** Kate Terrell, Robin Gaither, Rose Odland, Rachael Spencer, Corrine Flanagan, Angela Chesnut, Ginny Solari-Mazry, Chris Maffia **Not pictured:** Shannon Brady, Deborah Bronstein, Lynette Cleland, Freny Cooper (Co-Chair), Cynthia Druley, Pam Goodman, Angie McClellan (Co-Chair), Natasha Perry, Martina O'Sullivan, Kristin Wilson

The 25 WES Advisors all throughout campus like Katherine Love (pictured below) are empowered to help students through a financial crisis and offer more than the financial support. “They’ve been holding it in, but when they get an empathetic listener it comes out and it can be very emotional for the student. It can be very hard to ask for help, particularly for women.”

With no red tape, Katherine is able to offer help and the relief is immediate, “These are students who might have dropped out. They get more than money. They hear that someone cares about them, that they belong at Cabrillo. My first WES recipient and I still talk every semester.” Katherine happily recalls a graduation ceremony when a WES recipient came up to her and said, “I’m here because of that grant. I’m graduating.”



CIRCLE OF SUPPORT: PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE



The President's Circle is the Foundation's foundation — the sturdy support that makes all the other work possible. Cabrillo students work so hard to realize their educational dreams and members of the President's Circle work just as hard to help them do it!

Karen Cogswell
President's Circle Committee Co-Chair

The President's Circle brings together a community of caring supporters who value Cabrillo's role in providing a high-quality education available to all.

Members annually give \$1,000 or more to support the foundation's endeavor to assist students at every point of their educational journey. The President's Circle Committee makes it all possible!



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Front row: Julie Hamilton-Wierdsma, Claire Biancalana, Ceil Cirillo, Karen Cogswell (Co-Chair), Michael Allard (Co-Chair), Kalena Allard, Michele Bassi, Paula Fischer, Duf Fischer **Middle row:** Kristin Fabos, Jan Furman, Bill Kelsay, Rachael Spencer, Peggy Flynn, Karen Primavera, Nancy Millsagle, Julie Lambert, Ginny Solari-Mazzy **Back row:** Theo Wierdsma, Julie Thiebaut, Diane Koenig, Jim Baker, Matt Wetstein, Ed Newman **Not pictured:** Pegi Ard, Owen Brown, Linda Burroughs, Kathryn Cowan, Lee Duffus, Jackie Heald, Kent Imai, Vance Landis-Carey, Marilyn Manning Lonergan, Richard Lonergan, Fred McPherson, Kelly Nesheim, Erica Ow, William Ow, Cam Primavera, Ron Sekkel, Margie Sisk, Rachel Wedeen, Paula Woods

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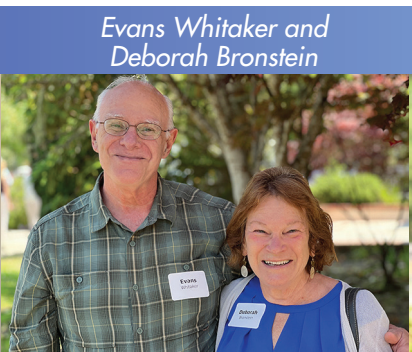
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A GIFT FOR FUTURE FARMERS

It's one of the most gratifying experiences of my life," Steve Evers explains on teaching horticulture students and helping them launch meaningful careers in the agriculture industry.

Steve worked as an engineer for 30 years and after taking a couple of classes in Landscape Design, he decided he wanted a degree in crop production because he loved the science of growing food. He ended up teaching at Cabrillo and over the past 10 years has worked with several students who have gone on to have agricultural careers. He remembers one student who went on to Cal Poly and now travels the world advising on growing strawberries for Driscoll's.

Steve is leaving a portion of his estate to Cabrillo's Horticulture program to support students with scholarships. "It's inspirational for me to share this agricultural knowledge and see how a student goes on to have a great career and grow food for us. It's my intent to help students like this. I feel that farmers are underappreciated in our society considering how important they are to civilization."



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LEGACY GIVING: PETER WEBER AND VICTOR RUDER



The Cabrillo College Foundation is honored to have received an estate gift from Peter Weber and Victor Ruder to support scholarships for students in STEM. Both Peter, a hero of the Vietnam War and Victor, an optimist overcoming the challenges of cerebral palsy, valued education.

The couple met when Victor answered a personal advertisement for a traveling companion, took the bus in his wheelchair from San Jose to Santa Cruz and met the love of his life and his future spouse. They shared many happy years together.

Victor and Peter wanted to help open doors for others, especially students at Cabrillo. Their legacy will live on through generations of students who will be helped through this kind gift.