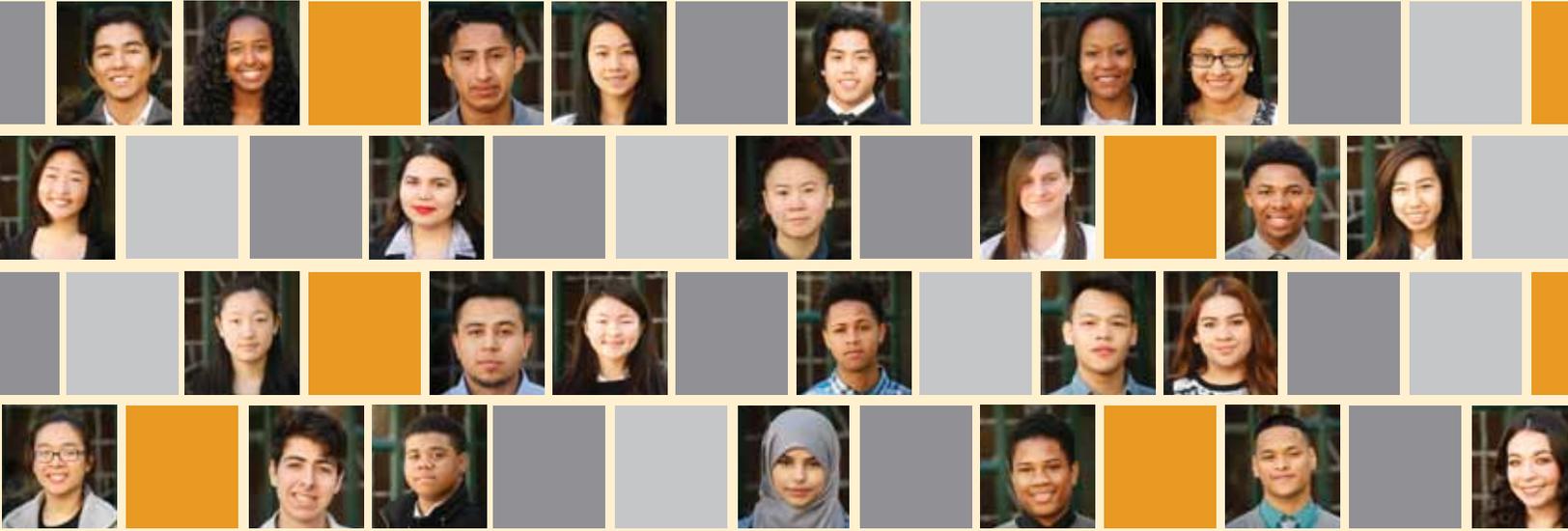


Celebrating 20 Years

**MERITUS**

Higher Achievement

## Meritus College Fund 20th Annual Awards Reception



Meritus College Fund Awards Reception  
20th Anniversary Class of 2016

### PROGRAM

Emcee: Diana Wolf, Executive Director

Speaker: Victoria Chan, 2011 Meritus Scholar  
Graduate, UC Davis

Visual toast to the Meritus Class of 2016

Wednesday, June 1, 2016

6-7:30pm

KQED | 2601 Mariposa Street

Sponsored by Zephyr Real Estate



## Dear Friends,

---

Welcome! Tonight we celebrate Meritus' class of 2016—our 20th cohort of Scholars! Over the last two decades, we have provided 730 students with robust support that includes close to \$9.5 million in scholarship awards and countless hours of comprehensive mentoring and college advising. The result: 88% of our Scholars attain college degrees, 35 of whom will celebrate their college graduations this year.

Our class of 2016 is comprised of young, thoughtful leaders. They have, among other things, captained football and basketball teams, served on the San Francisco Unified School District Advisory Council, catalyzed change in their schools and communities, and supported their families through challenging circumstances. Among them are a spoken word poet, a Police Activity League cadet, and a budding documentary filmmaker. Though their passions, strengths, and backgrounds vary, they have in common a drive to succeed in college and in their future careers.

Each 2016 Scholar has demonstrated the ambition, determination, and resilience they need to succeed in college. Thanks to the Meritus community, these 55 Scholars now also have access to a wide range of resources to support their journey to graduation. Always more than just a “check in the mail,” Meritus connects Scholars to donors, career mentors, paid summer internships, and staff advisors who provide individualized guidance to help Scholars connect their academic interests with their personal and career goals. College is a tool to help our Scholars access opportunities that will impact outcomes not only for themselves, but for our communities as well.

The class of 2016 enters Meritus at a historic time. Not only are we continuing our commitment to shepherd a broad cohort of local youth through college and beyond, but we are also expanding outside of San Francisco. This year, five Scholars join us from San Mateo County through a new partnership with the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula. As a college degree continues to be a pressing local and national priority, Meritus knows that its model can be leveraged to make a broader and deeper impact for first-generation college students beyond San Francisco.

The opportunity to join Meritus would not be possible without the generosity of our donors and partners, including the continued support of the Boys & Girls Clubs of San Francisco and Minds Matter. This year, our supporters forged dozens of formal and informal mentoring relationships, hosted more than 40 paid internships, and supported our Scholars in countless other ways. With your help, we've been able to secure \$880,000 in scholarship funding for the 2016 class. We are exceedingly grateful for each of the more than 100 community members who have chosen to invest in the futures of our Scholars this year, and we must especially acknowledge the members of our 10x10 Donors Circle who have so generously pledged to support a full scholarship each year for 10 years.

An impressive nine in 10 Meritus Scholars graduate from college. They become leaders on their college campuses, in their places of work, and throughout their communities. This success is due in part to the generous investments of our friends, donors, and community partners. On behalf of all of our Scholars, thank you for your support and partnership.

With appreciation,

Meritus College Fund

## Amat Ali

Wallenberg High School  
Will attend CSU San Francisco  
Donor: The St. Francis Foundation



College gives me freedom to decide my future career. Both my father and mother didn't attend high school in Yemen. They wanted to finish their education, but instead they had to leave all their dreams behind to help support their families. What excites me the most about graduating from college is that I want my parents to see me walk the stage and receive my diploma. That's the day I can finally look up to my dad proudly saying "Look! Your daughter did it!"

## Aldric Azucena

Archbishop Riordan High School  
Will attend UC Santa Cruz  
Donor: The McMicking Foundation



The fact that my parents did not really get to go to or finish college really pushes me to graduate out of a prestigious four year college. I'm getting an opportunity to make a name for myself in the world and really make my parents proud of what a successful person they helped nurture me to be.

## Alasia Allah

Leadership High School  
Will attend UC San Diego  
Donors: Kate Kelly & Tom Klein



What excites me most about getting a college degree is that I will have tons of knowledge in my major that no one will be able to take from me. College in general excites me because I love learning and expanding my mind. For me the time is now, I'm finally here. To be given the opportunity to experience life in a different city and community will allow me to broaden my outlook on society.

## Tre'von Boykin

Leadership High School  
Will attend CSU San Francisco  
Donors: Boys & Girls Clubs of San Francisco, Mike De Fazio, Elizabeth Little, The Outrageous Foundation, PG&E



College is important to me because I know it's one of the only ways to have a stable life in this country. College is the number one gateway to a stable life, stable friends, and stable connections. College ensures that you can live your life the way you dream. What I look forward to most in college is making connections with people who can help me in my field of work. I also look forward to seeing my mother's face, as I'll be her first child to go to college and finish a 4-year degree.

## Victor Andrade

Lowell High School  
Will attend CSU San Francisco  
Donor: WCC Scholarship Foundation



I want to prove that a young Latino man can make it and will make it, and this is best realized by going to college. No one in my family has ever attended college, so my going to college would be a major milestone for my family. But, more importantly, the reason why I want to go to college is because, to me, college represents independence and more education. I do believe that college is the best tool to change my and my family's world.

## Dexter Cato

Gateway High School  
Will attend UC Berkeley  
Donor: William Hobi

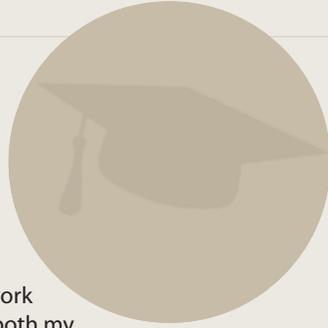


By becoming a police officer, or working in some aspect of law enforcement, I will be taking a step towards helping my community get back on its feet. I will be able to be a role model to kids that come after me. I want to encourage them to attend college, while also helping keep the community safe by reducing violence and drug use. I want to influence students like myself to follow in my footsteps. This is my ultimate goal and college is the path to it.

## Betty Chen

**Balboa High School**  
**Will attend UC Riverside**  
**Donor: Anonymous**

My parents didn't have the opportunity to receive a higher level of education when they were my age, and I see how hard they have to use their bodies to work instead of their minds. Watching both my parents work physical labor jobs due to the limitations of education, I've gotten to know the value and power of higher education. The knowledge I gain from college will be expanded as I work towards getting a degree to even further my studies. The degree would mean that I've advanced to a place where I am able and certified to share my knowledge with others.



## Denise Chen

**Galileo High School**  
**Will attend UC Merced**  
**Donor: Anonymous**

I would like to attend college to pursue a degree in public health. My family has battled many medical illnesses which have led me to grow an interest in public health. I hope to utilize college as a platform to educate myself. In return, I hope to influence others to make more informed choices on health and well-being.



## Tina Chiem

**Washington High School**  
**Will attend Clark University**  
**The Perry Family 10x10 Award**  
**Donors: Mauree Jane & Mark Perry**

I really can't imagine spending the next four years of my life doing anything else. My whole life has built up to this one thing—my abrupt launch into a community strikingly different than my own. The chance to learn and grow at an exponential rate is something I don't know I can replicate at any place other than a college campus. It's not at all about my name getting printed on a fancy paper I get at the end; it's the experiences I'll have leading up to that point.



## Noah Consul

**International Studies Academy**  
**Will attend UC Irvine**  
**Donor: Goldman Sachs**

My mother is my biggest motivation. Seeing her struggle, raising three kids on her own, is the reason why I work so hard. She always gives it her all when it comes to me and my brothers. She's never given up on us, so I owe it all to her. I know that college is my ticket out of poverty and to a bright future.



## Stephanie Dam

**Washington High School**  
**Will attend UC Santa Barbara**  
**Donor: Anonymous**

In college, I will deepen my interest in psychology and solidify my passions, while also exploring different possibilities for myself, socially and personally. What excites me about obtaining a college degree is not just the paper itself, but that it will symbolize all the hard work I have put into school since as early as kindergarten.



## Vicky Feng

**Lowell High School**  
**Will attend CSU Sacramento**  
**Donor: WCC Scholarship Foundation**

Obtaining a college degree would help me pursue the career of my interest. I would finally be able to give back to my parents who have worked so hard just to make sure I had the chance to go to explore my interests. College would show that my parents' sacrifices weren't just in vain. It would mean giving back to my parents, who gave up so much for me.



## Katie Guan

**Lowell High School**  
**Will attend UC Santa Barbara**  
**The Momi Fong Memorial Award**  
**Donors: David Hartley, Momi Fong Memorial Fund, San Francisco Chinatown Rotary, WCC Scholarship Foundation, Diana Wolf & Darren Bianchi**

I grew up with a creative and artistic mind, so I'm constantly thinking of and contributing my ideas towards a group. However, I need to learn how to apply those abilities with knowledge in that area to back me up, and a college degree can help me achieve my goal of opening a business of my own.



## Christian Guzman Vega

**Mission High School**  
**Will attend UC Merced**  
**Donors:** Linda & Nils Behnke

I want to use my degree to land a job that helps provide a life for myself and for my family that we haven't always had. College is important to me because I want to be able to give back to my community. I would like to use my personal path as a way to show youth in my community that college at a four-year school is an attainable goal.



## Joanna Hernandez

**Thurgood Marshall High School**  
**Will attend UC Merced**  
**Donor:** Kaiser Permanente Health Education Fund for Northern California

I do not let challenges intimidate me because I feel confident that I can overcome them. I will bring this attitude with me to make the most of my college years and positively impact my fellow students.



## Li Li Huynh

**Washington High School**  
**Will attend Kalamazoo College**  
**Donors:** Brenda Bottum, Collette Brooks & David Harrison, Minds Matter

I am excited to attend college and prepared to have one of the best times of my life. I hope to build long-lasting friendships and gain a lot of precious and memorable experiences from the school and professors.



## Ermias Kidane

**SF International High School**  
**Will attend CSU San Francisco**  
**Donors:** Helene & Charles Wright

My parents, my five brothers and I immigrated to the United States when I was 12 years old. I come from parents who left behind their high paying jobs to head to the U.S. in hopes of better employment for themselves and a better education for their children. I come from my parents' sacrifice. I want to go to college and graduate with a degree in computer science in order to support myself and my family. I'm someone who overcomes obstacles for his dreams, and I want those dreams to come true.



## Shu "Suzy" Kong

**Galileo High School**  
**Will attend UC Santa Barbara**  
**The Joseph Borg Scholarship Award**  
**Donor:** Jane Borg

The feeling of accomplishment in helping others fulfills me. I realized that helping others really defines my world. As a result, I wish to help those who feel so helpless and vulnerable. I was once in their shoes and I understand what they are going through. My goal now is to give guidance and support to people in addition to my friends by sharing knowledge and resources, making them realize their capabilities and opportunities.



## Tracy La

**Lowell High School**  
**The Chavez-Chen Family 10x10 Award**  
**Donors:** Rosalyn Chen & Tom Chavez

Through my leadership roles in high school I have learned that I love to work with others, displaying my communication and social skills. I also know that helping those around me is what I like to do the best, whether it be guiding others towards the right path or giving them tips on what is good for them. Growing from a timid and quiet girl to someone who speaks their mind is something that will help me throughout college and beyond.



## Shiyin "Sueanne" Liang

**Lowell High School**  
**Will attend UC San Diego**  
**Donors:** Susan Choe, Minds Matter, Fiona Smythe & Mark Cullen, Sue Weinstein

I want to get a college education for the sake of learning. I want to go to college because I want to study the literature I enjoy at a deeper level, to have a venue for political activism, and to feed my desire for knowledge. I want to be exposed to a different world than the one I have lived in, to meet people of different backgrounds and different opinions, and to come out with a broader worldview.



## Bi Qi "Bicky" Lin

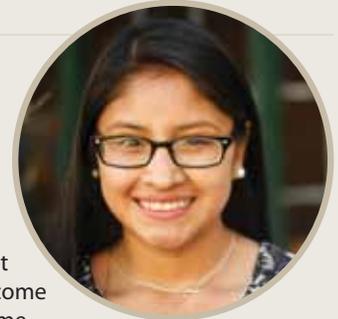
Lowell High School  
Will attend UC Berkeley  
**Donors:** Chrissie & Brooks Crawford, Sarah Flanagan, Whitney & Chris Gough, Marilu Klar, Ann & Karl Ludwig, Jeffrey Parks, Christie Weldon & Mark Batten



College is my biggest aspiration because with college, I can do what I love to do. With college, I can give back to my mother who toils endlessly as a housekeeper so I can live the American dream. With college, I can give back to my community who supported and motivated me in my path to college. What excites me the most is not the college diploma itself, but the path along the way. I am excited to do research, to get out of my comfort zone, and to build my independence.

## Emigdia Macario

Lowell High School  
Will attend CSU Humboldt  
**Donor:** Kaiser Permanente Health Education Fund for Northern California



Having my family proud of the first Macario family member to get a college degree will be a dream come true. Having a degree in hand, to me, means having the world in your hand that no one can take away. I know there will be challenges in my way, but I promise that I will fight and do everything so I can go to college and walk up that stage to get my degree and say that "Si Se Pudo" - Yes I did!

## Luoteng Lin

SF International High School  
Will attend CSU San Francisco  
**Donor:** WCC Scholarship Foundation



I am motivated to keep going forward by the desire to fulfill the expectations of my parents. I want to go to college, because that is the only thing that is worthy of my efforts and the sacrifices my parents and I have made the four years we have been apart. I have asked myself many times why would I come to the US to suffer so much, there was always one reward that came to mind: college. I bear my future success and my parents' expectations to keep moving ahead.

## Luis Martinez

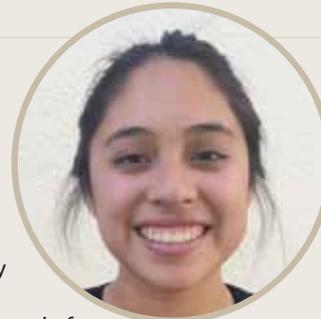
Balboa High School  
Will attend UC Santa Barbara  
**Donors:** Janet & Paul Phillips, Mary & Michael Wolfe



College ties in directly with my aspirations of becoming an agent of change on the local, national and global scale. A college experience would further help develop my global perspective along with the mental and moral broadening of my horizons. Though a degree would be the destination of that experience, the journey to that end will be the most rewarding—spiritually, mentally—for in this short period of time, I'll have solidified my character and become the individual I will be for the rest of my life.

## Priscilla Lopez

Burton High School  
Will attend UC Berkeley  
**Donors:** Curt Lockton, The John W. Mooty Foundation, WCC Scholarship Foundation



I am excited to obtain my college degree in engineering, making my parents proud of who I became. Everyone in my family would be proud of the path of college I have chosen and the hard work and dedication I put into becoming a successful person. Holding the degree would be proof of all the hard work I have done and all the challenges I overcame to reach my degree.

## De'Janay Matthews

Immaculate Conception Academy  
Will attend UC Riverside  
**Donor:** William Hobi



At an early age, I knew I would have to step up and be a role model for my siblings. I realized every test, grade, and award I received would not only benefit me, but would motivate my sisters to join me in breaking the cycle my family has historically followed. Being a role model can be an additional stress for some, but I wear such a badge with honor.

## Nelson Matute

SF International High School  
Will attend CSU San Francisco  
The Meritus Young  
Professionals Council Award  
Donor: Meritus YPC



College is important to me because it is the primary path to a successful life in my future. I am excited to be a role model for my little sister because one day she will grow up and be an adult. I want to be her role model and to guide her to the right path. Being the first person in my family to have attended college and to have a college degree makes me always keep on track.

## Elder Mejia

SF International High School  
Will attend CSU San Francisco  
The Salvador Garcia Memorial  
Award  
Donors: The Salvador Garcia  
Memorial Fund, WCC  
Scholarship Foundation



College is important for me to make my goals become a reality. My goal is to become a commercial pilot and fly everywhere. I like to fly in airplanes because it is exciting to be high up and see the little houses. Everything is more beautiful from above. I need a college degree to become a successful pilot. I will be the first member of my family to go to college. It is important for me to be the first to go to college so I can be an example to my siblings and inspire them to go to college too.

## Megan McKay

Lincoln High School  
Will attend Northern Arizona  
University  
The Ignite the Dream Award  
Donors: 20th Anniversary Ignite  
the Dream Fund, Boys & Girls  
Clubs of San Francisco, Sheila &  
Thomas Larsen, Angie & Seth  
Taube



A goal I have made for myself is to do something with my life that makes me happy and the only way I can do this is by going to college. College will allow me to study for a field of work that I find interesting and challenging. It will force me to work hard and push me to stay on top of my game, which I feel will be a very valuable life experience.

## Silvia Mejia de Paz

Mission High School  
Will attend CSU San Francisco  
Donors: Marian & Hans Baldauf,  
Gretchen & Jim Sandler



I have been fighting for my education for many years; it has been very hard for me to make it where I am now. In college, I want to learn more about other cultures, history, and law. I'm excited about obtaining the career I want so I can be able to help my family and community. I will be the first one in my family to graduate from high school and the first to go to a university. My life's challenges have made me stronger and more determined and I look forward to helping my family and community after I graduate.

## Vivian Mei

Washington High School  
Will attend UC Santa Barbara  
The Swartz Family 10x10 Award  
Donors: Susan & Jim Swartz



Going to college will not only give me more opportunities, but it will also teach me deep, sustained thinking, how to make connections, creativity, and independence. I will create a future for myself. I know college is a place where I can learn and grow as a person. I have not fallen into the expectations of the world I come from. I am not another product or a stereotype. I'm me. I don't have to fit a mold other people think I should fit. I am who I am, and I have to forge ahead and be my own person.

## Tariq Mukatash

Archbishop Riordan High School  
Will attend UC Davis  
Donor: Anonymous



Whenever I think about the future in four years, I can't stop grinning about thoughts of having a college degree. I get excited at the thought of looking back at the challenges, struggles, and hard work I have endured and thinking to myself "You've done it! It all payed off!" My ultimate goal is to become a doctor because I enjoy helping others. To know that I can have a positive impact on someone's life is the most serene and gratifying feeling anyone can ever achieve.

## Jamie Palencia Batres

O'Connell High School  
Will attend UC Irvine

**Donors:** Carmen Castro-Franceschi & Greg Franceschi,  
First Republic Bank

To me, college represents more than a diploma saying that I have fulfilled waking up early for four extra years. That diploma represents the frustrations, triumphs, and hardships that I have had to go through in order to receive it. A college experience means absolutely everything to me, since it would be a privilege that nobody in my family has been able to take advantage of. I am ready to make my mom proud, and I am also ready to make a change in the computer science field.



## Juan Pozos Garcia

Mission High School  
Will attend UC Davis

**Donors:** Beth & Geoffrey Hazard,  
Jacqueline Young

I know being alone in the United States can be a barrier to pursuing a higher degree, but I plan on continuing to utilize the resources that are available to me to successfully graduate college. My dream goal is to become a lawyer or social worker in the immigration field so I can one day give back to my family and my community. Human services and foster care have helped me a lot from getting my legal documentation to helping my performance in school. This has motivated me to become a lawyer or social worker to do what all these people have done for me.



## Yokabet Paulos

Washington High School  
Will attend Vanguard University

**Donors:** Maryam Mohit & Eric Blachford

Reflecting on my life, I realize that I may have not gotten everything I wanted, but I have worked hard for the things I do have. I am a firm believer that every decision I made, or decisions made that affected me, shaped me into who I am today. As I head toward college, I have decided to make the choice to see situations as a chance to grow rather than a way to be torn down. With my future college degree, I am excited to go out there and change the world.



## Pricila Rosillo

Mission High School  
Will attend Ohio Wesleyan University

**Donor:** Gladys Mitchell

My goal is to graduate from a four year university and become an environmental scientist and educator. After college I would like to come back to San Francisco and teach the younger generation. I want to open up their minds to think of ways to create sustainable living, habits, and access to fresh produce and clean water. Being able to have a job that I love and not have to struggle like my mother did would be a great experience. It would also make my mother and sister proud. I feel confident that while being in college I can accomplish a lot.



## Emma Pineda Rodriguez

O'Connell High School  
Will attend UC Irvine  
**The Jannis Halgren Memorial Award**

**Donor:** The Jannis Halgren Memorial Fund

I am highly motivated to keep pursuing higher education and make my mother proud. Going to college will give me the knowledge I need to educate my community about the things about which my family and I were never informed. I want to motivate and help people that do feel voiceless find their voice because none of us deserve to feel powerless. I will truly be able to make a change.



## Saivon Russell

Academy of Arts & Sciences  
Will attend CSU Los Angeles

**Donors:** Anonymous, Boys & Girls Clubs of San Francisco,  
Gussie & John Stewart

Over the years I've been into things such as graffiti, creative writing and sculpting. Those interests have made me want to strive for a career in an artistic field. I am interested in the way that an image can convey a message without words. The main reason I want to go to college is to learn more about marketing and business. I think a college degree would help me reach my ideal position as a marketing manager and afford the comfortable life that I strive to grasp.



## Jane Saelai

**Lowell High School**  
**Will attend the University of San Francisco**

**Donor:** Kaiser Permanente Health Education Fund for Northern California



Aside from my desire to learn more and appreciate the privilege of getting an education, I will need a college degree to obtain my dream job. I aspire to become a nurse not only to support my family financially, emotionally, and physically, but also to heal others, and to communicate with and serve my community. Financial problems should not be barriers against the will to learn and grow. I dream of earning a college degree that will open doors to more opportunities and make my parents proud.

## Binyam Teklegiorgis

**Mission High School**  
**Will attend Ohio Wesleyan University**

**Donor:** Kaiser Permanente Health Education Fund for Northern California



I want to be an orthopedist and help people who suffer from a lot of body pain. My motivation to go college comes from my struggles and challenges through which I have successfully been. I realize that in order for me to reach my goals, I need to go to college. I want to change my life. When I was in Ethiopia, my mother used to say "what we have is ours, the future which you work for is yours." I believe that if I work hard then nothing is impossible.

## Alberto Sanchez

**Lowell High School**  
**Will attend CSU San Francisco**  
**Donors:** Amy & Jeff Belkora, The Fromage Fund, Mary Hickey, Nancy & Allen Saldich, WCC Scholarship Foundation



Throughout my life I have had to face many challenges that have not only been challenging for me, but for my family as well. I learned to find ways around these challenges and to adapt to unfavorable situations to make the best out of them. No matter how difficult things may get, I will never back down. What excites me about obtaining a college degree is that I can finally lift my family out of our financial struggles into a better life that I know they deserve.

## Phillip Tham

**Lowell High School**  
**Will attend Kalamazoo College**  
**Donor:** The John W. Mooty Foundation



I want to be working in a major pharmaceutical company as a scientist or engineer. By working on a team with several other intelligent scientists and engineers, I would possibly be inventing a new drug that would be able to cure illnesses, such as cancer, or reverse the damage caused by diseases, such as Alzheimer's. I know, second-hand, that many people who struggle to get out of the state of poverty do not have much access to adequate medical advice or medication, especially in developing countries. By obtaining a college degree, I will have a good foundation in achieving my lifetime goals.

## Maria Tec Poot

**Lowell High School**  
**Will attend UC Merced**  
**Donors:** Tonia & Adam Karr, Monique & Martin Kobinger



My parents always tell me that anything is possible and that I can accomplish my dreams no matter what obstacles stand in my way. Their motivation always helps me stay on my feet and continue on with life. I know that once I become successful in the future, I want to be able to give back to my parents. They have risked their lives to come to a foreign country, leaving their families behind, so they could have a better life. I am amazed that I am going to be the first one of my family to attend college because I get to do something I love.

## Keon Thomas

**Balboa High School**  
**Will attend Morehouse College**  
**Donors:** Wynn & Bill Burkett, Winn Ellis & David Mahoney



My mother's sacrifices and determination motivate me to succeed. Beyond the classroom, I immerse myself in student clubs, athletics, and professional development. As graduation approaches, I feel highly driven and inspired to succeed in college. I take pride in my high school performance, but I am not satisfied. I eagerly await the opportunity to challenge myself further, to strive for continued success, and to mature as a person in college.

## Genesis Vasquez

SF International High School  
Will attend CSU San Francisco  
**Donor:** Kaiser Permanente  
Health Education Fund for  
Northern California

I like to listen to people's problems and advise them on productive responses to these problems because it makes me feel like I am contributing to society. I think it is important that young people grow up in a safe environment in order to assure that they can ultimately become good people who do good things for our community. By becoming a psychologist, I hope to help create a more supportive and safe environment for generations to come.



## Eliza Xie

Galileo High School  
Will attend Mills College  
**Donors:** Agents of Zephyr Real  
Estate

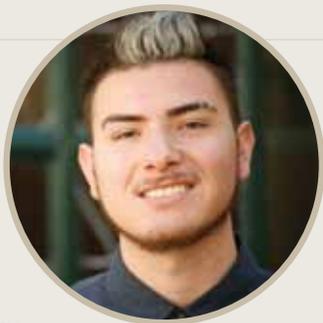
I am on a search for meaning and my life is my journey for knowledge. I long for an understanding of life that is beyond simply existing. There is a passion to learn that burns within me that my life would be unbearably dull without. My happiest moments have been when I was lost within intellectual queries, flushed with euphoria as I turned page and after page, reading, learning and yearning for more.



## Jonathan Vela

June Jordan School for Equity  
Will attend CSU San Francisco  
**The Meritus Alumni Award**  
**Donors:** Alumni & Friends of  
Meritus College Fund, Nestor  
Navidad

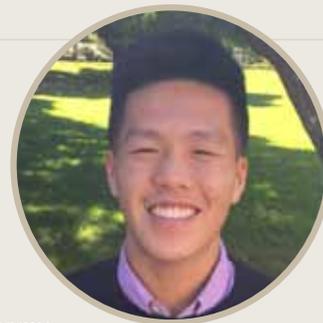
I will be the first of five children to get to college. I feel the need to become a positive role model for my siblings, especially to my younger brother who doesn't like school and recently said he would only aim to maybe graduate high school. I risked my life to get back to the US to finish my education. In Mexico I had no chance of even getting into high school and a year ago I didn't picture all of this being able to happen. I know that the day when I receive my college degree I'll realize how far I've come.



## Eugen Xie

Lowell High School  
Will attend UC Irvine  
**Donors:** Kay & Abhay Parekh

My parents immigrated here in hopes of fulfilling their American Dream, but they were only met with entry-level jobs and financial instability. I do not want to worry about not being able to provide for my parents, who have done so much for me. Being the first in my family to attend college, I look forward to the entire college experience. Campus life, being away from home, and learning from esteemed professors are all factors that I anticipate. However, I am most eager to immerse myself within a diverse community of scholars who share similar academic aspirations as me. By doing so, I can engage with peers of different disciplines and cultural contexts to not only challenge myself, but challenge those around me to learn and do more.



## Ka Hei "Teddy" Wong

Galileo High School  
Will attend UC Riverside  
**The Joseph Borg Scholarship  
Award**  
**Donor:** Jane Borg

Being able to obtain a college degree will open so many doors for me to pursue my dreams. In addition to looking from an economic point of view, attending college means experiences and lessons. I will learn to be more mature and responsible and step my way towards success in the global society, and one of the tools to be successful is to obtain a college degree. I aspire to be a positive role model for others and to strengthen myself as an individual, both mentally and physically. I want to help people by speaking up for them and fighting against inequalities and injustices.



## Xiao "Cathy" Yang

Galileo High School  
Will attend UC Davis  
**Donors:** Deborah & Daniel  
Damond, Kim & Chris Drew,  
Amanda & Vince  
Hoenigman, Ingrid Mazul & Ravi  
Viswanathan, Minds Matter,  
Susan & KC Stone

With a college degree, I will be able to demonstrate to my family that a positive mindset and self-motivation can help anyone get through difficult obstacles. A college degree will open more opportunities for career options. With a stable job, I would be able to give back to programs and nonprofit organizations that introduced me to good morals, motivated me to stay proactive and encouraged me to network with many new individuals.



# Meritus College Fund + the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula

*Through a new partnership with the BGCP's 'College Bound' initiative, Meritus has expanded beyond San Francisco for the first time. The inaugural cohort of Meritus + BGCP Scholars, featured below, will receive the same multi-year funding, comprehensive college advising, and career development resources that have helped Meritus Scholars succeed for 20 years.*

## Montserrat Diaz

**Menlo-Atherton High School**  
**Will attend UC Merced**

**Donors:** Victoria Thorp & Jim Migdal, The Westly Foundation



I know that I can achieve so much through the intellect and hard work that I provide for myself, as well as the lessons, mistakes and studies that I have learned along the way.

Education is something that no one can take away from me, and it is the one thing that I can always rely on if I lose a part of myself during my journey in life. What excites me about receiving an education and going to college is that I'm able to learn more about what I love and turn that into a career.

## Olivia Luna

**Menlo-Atherton High School**  
**Will attend St. Mary's College**

**Donor:** Sy Kaufman



I do not want to feed into the stereotypes that are made about my community. My community is my biggest motivation for wanting to attend college. I want to show everyone that just because one comes from a low-income community, that does not mean they are not capable of receiving a college education.

## Jaime Perez

**Everest Public High School**  
**Will attend UC Riverside**

**Donors:** Jen & Ryan Sweeney, The Westly Foundation



Education not only teaches you how to write an essay or solve a math problem, but it teaches one how to develop and share ideas that can contribute to a bigger cause.

Education converts a person into a greater tool than just a consuming human being. Obtaining a college degree will give me the authority to educate young minds who also grew up surrounded by ignorance, violence and drugs in hopes of giving them a chance to get out of this environment and seek more opportunity.

## Jessica Robles-Diaz

**Sequoia High School**  
**Will attend UC Davis**

**Donors:** Tracy Sedlock & Barnaby Walsh



Since I was little I have always wanted to be a veterinarian and throughout the years my passion for helping animals has only grown.

My family has always supported me in accomplishing my dream. Being able to obtain a college degree excites me because it shows me that all my hard work and dedication is worth it. Having a college degree will allow me to give back to my community for their support and gratitude like the program I participated in during high school.

## Jordan Sandoval

**Sequoia High School**  
**Will attend the University of San Francisco**

**Donors:** Gerri & Richard Wong



I'm a Latino teenager who lives in an unincorporated part of my own city. I'm a student who is politically motivated and fights for racial equality. But ultimately, I identify as someone who is curious, adventurous and someone who refuses to be confined to labels and assumptions. Instead of looking at my humble beginnings as constraints, I look at my prior failures as motivation to better myself, pursue my academic goals, and give back to my community. There's a saying that the toughest steel is forged in the hottest fire. Indeed, the challenges I have overcome formed my character and made me a stronger individual.

## 2016 Scholarship Donors

Barbara & Fred Abbott  
Adobe  
Sophia Aguinaga  
Anonymous (2)  
Donna Armstrong  
Lisa Aull  
Marian & Hans Baldauf  
Bank Of America  
Richard Barker  
Bascom Northwest Ventures  
Shelby Baynard  
Linda & Nils Behnke  
Amy & Jeffrey Belkora  
Sarah Anne Bender  
The Black Dog Private Foundation  
Ashley Bledsoe  
Claire Bobrow  
Jane Borg  
Amy Borzillieri  
Brenda Bottum  
Boys & Girls Clubs of San Francisco  
Mark Brand  
Colette Brooks & David Harrison  
Sandor & Claudette Budai  
Wynn & Bill Burkett  
Maria & Andy Burtis  
Yunlu Cao  
Richard Caplin  
Carmen Castro-Franceschi & Greg Franceschi  
Kathy Catanho  
Laurie & Wayne Charkins  
Martin Chavez  
Rosalyn Chen & Tom Chavez+  
Roger Cheng  
Jessica Choe  
Susan Choe  
Karen Cogswell  
Nancy Cole  
Cheryl Cornelius  
Chrissie & Brooks Crawford  
Fiona Smythe & Mark Cullen  
Tina Cun\*  
Beth & Andy Daecher  
Deborah & Daniel Damond  
Sheila Daniels  
Mike DeFazio  
Deloitte  
Anna Diaz  
Kristin Donato  
Jeanine Donohue  
Kim & Chris Drew  
Trudy & Bill Drypolcher  
Thomas Enochs  
Ryan Fay  
First Republic Bank  
Sarah Flanagan  
Hung Fong\*  
Charles Fortenbach  
Grace Fowler  
Amy Francisco  
Hansen Fu  
Michael Garland  
Genentech  
Emily Gerard  
Goldman Sachs  
Google  
Andrew Gordon  
Whitney & Chris Gough  
Jermaine Guilbeaux  
Juliet Harbutt

The Jannis Halgren Memorial Fund  
Jane & David Hartley  
Beth & Geoffrey Hazard  
Dan Healy  
Lili Henry  
Mary Hickey  
Katherine & Stephen Hirschfeld  
William Hobi  
Deirdre & Chris Hockett  
Amanda & Vince Hoenigman  
Kathy Hua  
Bowen Huang  
Peggy Hughes  
Deryn Jakolev  
Todd Jolly  
Brian Jones  
Kaiser Permanente  
Deborah Karel  
Tonia & Adam Karr  
Sy Kaufman  
Maureen Kelly  
Tammy Kiely  
Marilu Klar  
Kate Kelly & Tom Klein  
Janice Kha\*  
Damon Knox  
Monique & Martin Kobinger  
Missy Lahren  
Sheila & Thomas Larsen  
Emily Law\*  
Kathryn Leaman  
Jenna Leung\*  
Julie & David Levine  
Elizabeth Little  
Daniel Lockwood  
Kevin Lowry  
Ann & Karl Ludwig  
Domenic Mancini  
Nick Mancini  
Ingrid Mazul & Ravi Viswanathan  
Kathleen McCarthy  
The McMicking Foundation  
Robert Meister  
Eric Milliren & Steven Muchnick  
Minds Matter  
Gladys Mitchell  
Landon Mizuguchi  
Maryam Mohit & Erik Blachford  
Katy Mooney  
Isabel & J. Thaddeus Moore  
John W. Mooty Foundation  
Marissa Morrison  
Margaret & Frank Morrow  
Kristin Morse  
Patricia Munter & Jeff Loomans  
Nestor Navidad  
Jennet & Don Nazzal  
Sophie Ng\*  
Vicki Nielsen  
Jim Nies  
Laura Norman  
Alessandra Ortiz\*  
Melissa Ortiz\*  
The Outrageous Foundation  
Dillon Pan\*  
Cindy Panchula  
Kay & Abhay Parekh  
Jeffrey Parks  
Shamik Patel  
Jenny Pearlman & Jack McDonald  
Oliver Peng

Mauree Jane & Mark Perry+  
Anne & Nathan Petrowsky  
PG&E  
Janet & Paul Phillips  
Alexandra Picavet  
Joe Porter  
Shane Powers  
Leena Rao  
Angie Roby  
Calvin Ruan  
Steven Rubin  
Sean Ryan  
Nancy & Alan Saldich  
Salesforce  
Noelle Salmi  
Chinatown Rotary  
Gretchen & Jim Sandler  
Andrea & Rich Scheve  
Gabriella Schultz  
Tracy Sedlock & Barnaby Walsh  
Jay Sherlock  
Lori Shigekane  
Mike Shwe  
Mary Sky  
Kate Smith  
Gisele Souza Amorin\*  
St. Francis Foundation  
Michele Stamatopoulos  
Tania Stepanian  
Gussie & John Stewart  
Susan & KC Stone  
Ernest Stout  
Dennis Sullivan  
Susan & Jim Swartz+  
Jen & Ryan Sweeney  
Cathi Sweeney  
Gene Tiger Sykes  
Angie & Seth Taube  
Maria Thompson  
Victoria Thorp & Jim Migdal  
TPG Capital  
Monica Tremont  
Dyann Tresenfeld  
Travis Van Brasch  
Nancy Vernon-Burke  
Joan Wang  
WCC Scholarship Foundation  
Jane Weil & Richard Fink  
Zeke Weiner  
Sue Weinstein  
Christie Weldon & Marc Batten  
The Westly Foundation  
Kelly Whalen  
Robyn Wilkinson  
Annie Williams & Harry Schulman  
Michael Wishart  
Diana Wolf & Darren Bianchi  
Mary & Michael Wolfe  
Gerri & Richard Wong  
Josephine & Tim Wong  
Patricia Wong  
Alexis Woods & Daniel Donahoe  
Helene & Charles Wright  
Sandra & Gaymond Yee  
Jeffrey Yen  
Jacqueline Young  
Zephyr Real Estate  
Sophia Zhao  
Mona Zhao & Kenneth Lo  
\*Meritus Scholar  
+10x10 Donor



### Board of Directors

Mary Wolfe, Chair  
Randy Gottfried, Treasurer  
Jen Sweeney, Secretary  
Tom Chavez  
Deirdre Hockett  
Sheila Larsen  
Isabel Moore  
Abhay Parekh  
Janie Richardson  
Patrick Welsh  
Mona Zhao

### Advisory Council

Sheila Antrum  
Linden Berry  
Chris Boyd  
Superintendent Richard Carranza  
Carmen Castro-Franceschi  
Belva Davis  
Bill Drypolcher  
Lois Friedman, MSW  
Kathryn Hecht, EdD  
Tonia Karr  
Sy Kaufman  
Kate Kelly  
Mary Ann Mason, PhD  
Frank Morrow  
Mauree Jane Perry  
Camilla Smith  
Liz Steyer

### Young Professionals Council

Sophia Aguinaga  
Ashley Bledsoe  
Anna Diaz  
Ryan Fay  
Hansen Fu  
Kathy Hua  
Janice Kha  
Kevin Lowry  
Nick Mancini  
Rob Meister  
Marissa Morrison  
Oliver Peng  
Calvin Ruan  
Joan Wang

### Alumni Circle Leadership

Janelle Charles, 2002 Scholar  
Hung Fong, 2007 Scholar  
Joanne Fung, 2011 Scholar  
Antricia Kimuyu, 2004 Scholar  
Linda Liu, 2010 Scholar  
Alessandra Ortiz, 2009 Scholar  
Melissa Ortiz, 2003 Scholar  
Anthony Rodriguez, 2007 Scholar  
Mona Zhao, 2008 Scholar

*The above honor roll is specific to the 2016 Award Ceremony and recognizes those who have made a donation to the 2016 Scholarship Fund prior to May 13, 2016. We are exceedingly grateful for all the donors and partners who have helped to make our 20th anniversary cohort of Scholars possible. A comprehensive honor roll acknowledging donors to every program area will be published in the fall of 2016.*