



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Meritus College Fund Awards \$840,000 in Scholarships, Plus Advising and Career Development, to 60 Bay Area Graduates in 21st Year of Service to Community

SAN FRANCISCO, CA: Meritus College Fund, a local nonprofit empowering young people from low-income communities across the Bay Area to succeed in college and excel in their futures, is privileged to announce its 21st class of Scholars. After a rigorous selection process, 60 graduates from San Francisco, Redwood City, Menlo Park, and East Palo Alto high schools will join the Meritus program, which provides a generous multi-year scholarship, comprehensive college success advising, and career development to hundreds of Scholars each year. The combination of these core services result in an impressive 88% of Meritus Scholars completing four-year college degrees, compared to 26% of their peers nationally.

Meritus Scholars are selected based on academic achievement, demonstrated financial need, and resilience in the face of adversity. They earn high school GPAs between 3.0 and 3.7, and 7 in 10 come from families making less than \$40,000 per year. Meritus works with students who are often overlooked for merit-based awards, but who nonetheless will greatly benefit from higher education. These Scholars achieve success in wide variety of professional fields and are leaders in their communities.

Executive Director Diana Wolf is pleased to welcome the 2017 cohort, saying: "Meritus Scholars are the future. Our students demonstrate the best in our communities, and our shared society has much to gain from the leadership and voices of these driven young people. We look forward to seeing all that they will accomplish, in college and beyond!"

Recipients of the award were introduced May 31, 2017, at KQED Studios in San Francisco in a celebratory event formally acknowledging their selection as Meritus Scholars and allowing them the opportunity to meet the community of supporters who make the Meritus program possible.

For more information about Meritus or to interview one of our Scholars, visit meritus.org or call 415.400.8640.

Meritus Class of 2017

Scholar

Adolfo Aguilar
Sarah Alowdi
Precious Amaechi
Cinthya Arellano
Maria Becerra
Rebecca Benjamin
Edy Cahueque
Jamie Cai
Mauricio Castaneda
Erica Chan
Noelle Chin
Rony Delcid
Nataly Espinoza Madrid
Alicia Flores
Joseph Garcia
Carlos Gomez
Lizvett Guizar
Monica Higgins
Robert Jimenez
Rutherford Kha
Allan Lei
Huiting Lei
Huiyin Lei
Joyce Li
Jessica Liu
Jonathan Lopez
Renato Lopez Rivas
Lesly Macalino
Zahir Mammadzada
Rodney Martinez
Joseph May
Kevin Menacho
Makayla Mouton
Vanessa Munoz
Brian Ngo
Gisselle Ortega
Presephany Palacios
Jeronimo Perez-Flores
Ronald Phelps
Samaria Pineda
Rachel Quan

High School

Lincoln High School
Wallenberg High School
Lincoln High School
Lowell High School
Lowell High School
Washington High School
Mission High School
Balboa High School
Balboa High School
Lowell High School
Washington High School
Leadership High School
City Arts & Technology
O'Connell High School
Summit Prep High School
Mission High School
Immaculate Conception Academy
June Jordan School for Equity
Sequoia High School
Galileo High School
Lowell High School
Thurgood Marshall High School
Thurgood Marshall High School
Galileo High School
Balboa High School
S.F. International
Menlo Atherton High School
Burton High School
Galileo High School
Archbishop Riordan High School
Archbishop Riordan High School
Gateway High School
Burton High School
Immaculate Conception Academy
Lowell High School
O'Connell High School
Mission High School
S.F. International
Lincoln High School
Immaculate Conception Academy
Lowell High School

Will Attend

UC Berkeley
CSU San Francisco
Howard University
St. Mary's College of California
UC Los Angeles
University of San Francisco
CSU San Francisco
UC Davis
CSU San Francisco
UC San Diego
CSU Long Beach
CSU San Francisco
UC Merced
CSU East Bay
UC Merced
CSU San Francisco
CSU San Jose
Mills College
Cal Poly
UC San Diego
Middlebury College
UC Merced
UC Davis
UC San Diego
UC Merced
CSU San Francisco
UC Riverside
CSU San Francisco
Goucher College
UC Irvine
Pitzer College
UC Riverside
San Jose State University
University of San Francisco
UC Santa Barbara
Holy Names University
CSU East Bay
CSU San Jose
College of Idaho
University of San Francisco
UC Riverside

Alondra Quiles	East Palo Alto Academy	UC Riverside
Jennifer Quintero Moreno	Woodside High School	CSU Channel Islands
Andrea Ramirez	Galileo High School	CSU Sonoma
Jessica Rangel	Aspire East Palo Alto Phoenix Academy	UC Merced
Roseann Roceta	Mission High School	CSU Los Angeles
Karla Rodriguez	Mission High School	UC Los Angeles
Guenne Sarmiento	Lowell High School	UC San Diego
Samara Seymore	Gateway High School	UC Merced
Jasmine Soria-Delgado	Menlo Atherton High School	UC Merced
Olive Tambou Nzoutchoum	Lowell High School	Macalester College
Jermaurtez Thomas	Wallenberg High School	CSU San Francisco
Esmeralda Valiente	Sequoia High School	CSU San Francisco
Bianca Vargas	Menlo Atherton High School	University of Redlands
Jamion Wright	Mission High School	CSU Sacramento
Annie Jia Ying Wu	Galileo High School	UC Los Angeles
Wanying Yang	Mission High School	UC Riverside
Thomas Zhang	Washington High School	CSU Fullerton
Jiahong Zhu	Galileo High School	UC Davis
Jiali Zhu	Galileo High School	UC Davis

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