



# COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAM



**On behalf of our young people and the future of the San Diego region, we're inviting donors to join us in investing in needs-based scholarships.**

## FUELING THE ECONOMY THROUGH EDUCATION

San Diego County is poised for new levels of economic success. To sustain job growth, more of our students need to get to, and through, college. Across California, more than 60% of all job openings will soon require at least some college education, with nearly a quarter of all new jobs requiring a bachelor's degree. However, according to research from the Public Policy Institute of California, only a fraction of students in California capable of earning a degree actually do.

San Diego Economic Development Corporation research shows that 1 in 3 San Diegans are Hispanic, yet 85% of Hispanic residents do not have a bachelor's degree. For the region to remain competitive, we need to promote economic inclusion and close the minority achievement gap, starting with our students.



## INCREASING OPPORTUNITY FOR LOCAL YOUTH

The San Diego Foundation Community Scholarship Program provides scholarship opportunities for local students to help pursue their educational goals and achieve their higher education dreams. The program is the largest in the region outside of the university system, and provides a variety of scholarships to high school students, current college students, graduate students and adult re-entry students. Since 1997, The San Diego Foundation and its generous donors have awarded more than \$30.4 million to thousands of students.

**Everyone loses when students who could succeed don't.**

San Diego's young people have potential and drive. Most want to go to college and have the ability to succeed there. But too many lack access to the academic preparation, support, and financial resources they need to navigate the transition from high school to college, and from college entry to college degree.

**Empower local students to achieve their dreams by opening a scholarship fund.**



**Contact Danielle Valenciano at [DanielleV@SDFoundation.org](mailto:DanielleV@SDFoundation.org) or (619) 235-2300 to learn more**

## BUILDING A MODEL FOR THE REGION

In line with The Foundation's commitment to education and the impact of the Community Scholarship Program, The San Diego Foundation has partnered with California-based College Futures Foundation, local nonprofit Reality Changers and Sweetwater Unified High School District to launch the Community Scholars Initiative, an effort that will help hundreds more low-income and first-generation students in San Diego County prepare for, pay for and persist through college.

The Community Scholars Initiative combines the Reality Changers College Apps Academy program with needs-based scholarships and wraparound services, including academic tutoring, family support and counseling, that help increase college access and success among San Diego students. During the first year, 78 students enrolled in the Community Scholars Initiative and received needs-based college scholarships for the 2018-2019 academic year.



## WHAT ARE THE BARRIERS TO COLLEGE SUCCESS?



### Cost

Annual tuition can require up to 84% of a low-income family's income.<sup>1</sup>



### Support

Many low-income students and students of color are the first in their families to go to college.



### Special Challenges

Only about 5% of foster youth who enter college persist year to year.<sup>2</sup>

“The scholarship from The San Diego Foundation signifies the key to the door to my success. Not only will this scholarship uphold the cost of my education, but it will ensure an overall peace of mind and happiness knowing that I have the financial support necessary as the first generation in my family to attend college.”

—Scholarship Recipient Galilea Marin, Southwest High School

The Community Scholars Initiative presents donors with a new, innovative way to think about scholarships and programs that strengthen the San Diego economy. To expand its impact to other school districts and create a permanent model for support throughout the region, The San Diego Foundation is working with philanthropists to build an endowment for the Community Scholars Initiative.



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1. Cahalan, M. & Perna, L. (2015). Indicators of Higher Education Equity in the United States: 45 Year Trend Report 2015 Revised Edition. *The Pell Institute and University of Pennsylvania Alliance for Higher Education and Democracy*.

2. Frerer, K., Sosenko, L. D., Pellegrin, N., Manchik, V., & Horowitz, J. (2012). Foster Youth Transitions: A study of California foster youth high school and college educational outcomes. *Center for Social Services Research and The Institute for Evidence-Based Change*.