



**Kiwanis Club  
of  
Rolling Hills Estates**

**2023  
Scholarship Awards**

**Los Verdes Golf Course  
June 11, 2023  
11:00 AM—2:00PM**

# ***Reception***

***Welcome & thank you to Sponsors  
Of the Kiwanis Club Rolling Hills Estates***

Cheryl Rivers-Moore, President

***Pledge of Allegiance***

Susan Brooks

***Lunch***

***Kiwanis Club of Rolling Hills Estates Introduction***

Susan Brooks, Former Mayor of RPV

***Presentation of Kiwanis Awards***

Susan Brooks & Members

***Congratulations to our recipients  
and their families***

***Please join us and meet the members of the Kiwanis of RHE of on  
the patio immediately following the presentation.***

# ***2023 Sponsors and Contributors***

## ***Gold***

Jerry Duhovic  
EDCO

Janice Hahn Supervisor L.A. County District 4  
Tim McOsker L. A. City Council District 15

## ***Silver***

Richard Sherman  
Trump National L.A.  
Katie McGrath & JJ Abrams Family Foundation  
El Pollo Inka  
Charles Collinge  
Terranea Resort  
Union Bank (U.S. Bank)  
Julie Blake

## ***Bronze***

Pacific Side Properties Inc.  
Seaside Community Church  
Bragg Companies

***Thank You for making the 2023 Kiwanis Scholarship  
Awards Possible***

**Scholarship Committee:**

Susan Brooks, Joan Davidson, Tom Winter

**Program coordinator:** Lela Spinnuzi

**Support:** Key Club members

**Administration:** Herb Stark

**Music:** Richard Sherman

## ***Kiwanis Club of RHE Scholars***

Destiny Chavez	Port of Los Angeles
Shaelynn Cruz	San Pedro
Dangelo Diaz	San Pedro
Destiny Dorado	San Pedro
Natalie Hsu	Peninsula
Arianna Huang	Harbor Teacher Preparation Academy
Rebecca Jennings	Port of Los Angeles
Naomi Kao	Palos Verdes
Janna Lee	Palos Verdes
Janet Madrigal	Banning
Margarita Navarro	San Pedro
Emilia Pirir	Port of Los Angeles
Maya Prieto	San Pedro
Dean Puckett	Palos Verdes
Marc Quiroga	San Pedro
Valeria Rivera	Banning
Deven Rivers	San Pedro
Erica Ro	Peninsula
Crystal Sifuentes	Port of Los Angeles
Nadia Umana	Port of Los Angeles
Alondra Vazquez	Banning
Shieru Wada	San Pedro
Bella Zapata	California Academy of Math and Science
Aury Zapata	San Pedro

# ***Scholarship Awards***

## **Destiny Chavez**

Throughout Destiny's years in school she has been strong academically and has received various academic awards for her outstanding grades. In her four years of high school she has maintained a GPA of 4.0 and higher, leading to her receiving various Honor Roll and Principal's Honor Roll with Distinction awards. She has taken part in multiple extracurricular activities, both in and out of school. She volunteered over the summer at her high school, and taking part in clubs. Over the summer she helped out school staff prepare classrooms and distributing textbooks for the upcoming school year, She has been accepted into various schools with her top choice being Cal Poly Pomona. She hopes to attend a four year university and pursue a bachelor's degree in biology and to prepare herself for the MCAR and eventually attend medical school. She wants to pursue a career as a doctor in either pediatrics or neurology.

## **Shaelynn Cruz**

Shaelynn has been an active student in her school and community from the beginning of high school. As a result, she has been recognized for her academic achievements. She received awards like High Honor, Most Involved, and Member of the Month for College Bound. Throughout she has maintained a 3.5 GPA allowing her to take AP courses and College Credit programs to boost her GPA. Not only has she been focused on her studies, but she has been involved in her community. She has given back to her community by assisting with fundraising and event planning at her local church. She has received acceptance letters from numerous universities. She intends to pursue a career as an immigration lawyer. Her education continues to be her number one priority and will continue to work hard to be the first in her family to graduate from a university.

## **Dangelo Diaz**

For the duration of high school, Dangelo has taken regular, honors and AP courses, as well as a psychology College course through the Boys and Girls Club of the Los Angeles Harbor, College Bound Program. Throughout His four years he has maintained a GPA of 3.0 and above. In addition to his academic pursuits, he has constantly given back to the community by volunteering to set up events for students; such as themed dances, career fairs, parent meetings, and Thanksgiving dinner, at the Boys & Girls Club. Further, he has participated in the SOUL Program, a program that gathers and distributes food to homeless individuals. Dangelo has been accepted at CSU Dominguez Hills, his first choice, as well as several other universities. He plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in general management. His career objective is to have his own welding business, specifically civil welding.

## **Destiny Dorado**

Destiny has been a member of the Visual and Performing Arts Magnet program for her entire High School enrollment, participating in the VAPA showcases held twice a year. She has been involved with the San Pedro High School yearbook, the San Pedro High School ASB art department, and in the San Pedro High School Associated Student Body. Her last LAUSD weighted GPA was 3.81. Extracurricular activities that she has participated in includes enrichment activities such as the summer enrichment program CEOS of tomorrow, Teens Mean Business, and has volunteered her time at the Beauty Within Gemstones for the past 2 years. Destiny has been accepted at Cal State Fullerton, her first choice, as well as other universities. Her objective is in pursuing the career of becoming a licensed professional tattoo artist eventually working up to be a tattoo Studio owner.

## **Natalie Hsu**

During Natalie's four years at Palos Verdes Peninsula High school, she has achieved a cumulative grade point average of 3.78 unweighted and 4.5 weighted. A rigorous course over the years included seven AP courses, multiple honors classes, and 3 years of summer school. As an active member of the Southern California Scholarship Federation, Natalie has maintained good marks and earned the Sealbearer Award. Through the Palos Verdes Library District, she has volunteered at her local library as a computer docent. In addition, the National Chinese Honor Society at her high school, of which she is a member, has provided her with numerous volunteer opportunities. She has been accepted by two universities, Northeastern University, her first choice, and Cal State Fullerton. Natalie intends to major in computer science. She hopes to pursue a career in the computer science field such as a UX designer or as a computer programmer.

## **Arianna Huang**

In high school, Arianna consistently made the principles honor roll each semester, resulting in a commutative GPA of 4.439. She ranked number two out of 124 students in her senior class, earning the title of Salutatorian. She was active in community service as a member of the Port of Los Angeles Boys and Girls Club and a volunteer for the Weekend Wellness Program, which helped over 300 low income families each week. Additionally, she co-founded a community garden and created a composting bin to ensure sustainable produce growth. The produce they grew was distributed to families in need through a community fridge. These experiences have shaped her passion for environmental sustainability and influenced her intended major of Environmental studies. She has been accepted by the UC Santa Barbara, her first choice, as well as multiple other universities. At UC Santa Barbara, Arianna will be studying to earn a Bachelor of Science Degree in Environmental Studies to become an environmental engineer.

## **Rebecca Jennings**

Throughout high school Rebecca has maintained a 4.0 or greater GPA in all her classes. With her academic performance she received recognition as a member of California Scholarships Federation Seal Bound and National Honors Society. In addition, she received Awards based upon her class vigor and effort including the Principal Honor's Award and the "Going the Distance" During Distance Learning certificate. Her experience at Port of Los Angeles High School has left a positive impact on her appreciation of the local community. She has volunteered during the summer at her high school to assist with the preparations for the upcoming school year and at the Boys and Girls Club through Weekend Wellness, donating packaged food to families. These experiences have made her grateful to have helped provide a welcoming and resourceful environment for others. Rebecca has applied to numerous colleges and has been accepted into multiple campuses that align with her goals. She has not yet to declare a school. She intends to pursue a bachelor's degree in computer science to land a career as a system analysis or software developer and potentially branch into the criminal justice system.

## **Naomi Milly Kao**

Naomi is a candidate for Valedictorian at PVHS with a 4.97/4.0 GPA and academic honors including National Merit Commended Scholar, AP Scholar with Distinction, AP Capstone Diploma, American Mensa Honor Society, NHS, and CSF Gold Seal. She is also a scholarship Semi-Finalist for the Coca-Cola Foundation (1 of 2 in PVPUSD) and at least a Semi-Finalist for the GE-Reagan Foundation and the Elks National Foundation Most Valuable Student award. Naomi's honors pending advancement also include Chapter nominee for the P.E.O. Star Scholarship (1of 1 in PVPUSD), PVHS nominee for the Milken Scholars, and Candidate for the U.S. Presidential Scholars (1 of 3 in (PVPUSD). Her community service is highlighted by her dedication to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) – leading a team to raise \$120,000 in 7 weeks during its Student of the Year (SOY) program, co-founding the MMS Club at PVHS, and helping envision and launch a new SOY South Bay market. She is also a founder and cellist for the Cloyden Quartet which performs throughout the South By, and 1 of 25 Councilmembers in Congressman Ted Lieu's Youth Advisory Council. This fall, Naomi will be studying biology at Stanford University, hoping to pursue a career in medicine/science.

## **Janna Lee**

Janna is a senior at Palos Verdes High School. She has a GPA of 4.7595 Weighted and 3.8167 Unweighted. She is a Co-president of SNHS, General-Secretary of MUN, and is involved with NHS, CSF, and ENHS. Outside of school, she is the leader of the Teen Science Cafe at the Aquarium of the Pacific, a Junior docent at the Palos Verdes Interpretive Center, the Youth Mentor of the International Music Missionary, a member of Assembly, and has finished the Certificate of Merit of the Advanced Level of Piano. She has researched under the Lundquist Institute and won an Earth Science NASA Award for her project on Delaying Desertification in Certain Soil Types by Manipulating Alkalinity and Some Abiotic Factors. In the future, She hopes to pursue a career in Environmental & Sustainability with a concentration in Environmental Health.

## **Janet Madrigal**

Janet received awards for having a grade point average higher than 3.0, Outstanding Attendance and was on the Principal's Honor Roll. She is inspired by subjects in business, participating in the International Economic Summit Program which led to the Top Team Representation Award. During her senior year she was able to work in the attendance office as a Teacher Assistant. She has applied and has been accepted by the University of California Irvine, her first choice, including several other Universities. She plans to peruse a business career.

## **Margarita Navarro**

Margarita has a 3.9 weighted GPA. She has taken six AP classes and 15 honors classes during high school and received a five on her AP Spanish language test. She has been a part of a STEM based alumnae group named Tech Trek Illuminate Group of the South Bay for 6 years where she has worked her way up the board from membership coordinator, Co-Vice President to now Co-President. She has also attended multiple informational meetings where she has translated, led, and organized. She has been accepted to UC Davis where she plans to take chemistry courses with an applied forensic major in order to later work for the Los Angeles Sheriff's department as forensic scientist.

## **Emilia Pirir**

Throughout Emilia's entire academic career she has lived by three main rules: succeed academically, serve her community and to make her parents proud. In her high school career she has challenged herself taking both honors, AP and college classes earning her, Principal's Honor Roll (GPA of a 3.5-3.9) Award and has been a member of the California Scholarship Federation for the past three years maintaining a high 3.8 GPA. Outside school she has been a leader in her community. She has served with countless organizations and has become a Counselor in training with the Sacred Heart Girls Camp. Emilia has been an active member of the Women Empowerment Club, Leaders Within, Link Crew, Boys and Girls Club to name a few. She has been accepted at the California Polytechnic University San Luis Obispo. She plans to study journalism with the hopes to becoming a traveling journalist.

## **Maya Prieto**

Maya's grade point average is 3.5 weighted. She has won two honor roll awards, one high honor roll award, and one principal's honor award. Through the school for advanced studies program she has won student of the month. As a member of the Keystone Legacy leadership program at the Boys & Girls Club of San Pedro she has aided the community through the teen Outreach events such as a large scale friends giving event where they gave food to teens or the Christmas dinner and give away. She has supported the community through the Alley beautification events with the assistance of the San Pedro neighborhood council. Maya has been accepted to Otis College of Arts and design. Her objective is to go to Otis College to obtain my Fine Arts degree and obtain a job in the Arts Fields as a museum worker and professional artists. Maya's final goal, while continuing to work, is going back to school to get her design in history degree to become a historic preserver.

## **Dean Puckett**

Dean Puckett, from Palos Verdes High School, has a GPA of 4.16 and is a member of Link Crew, water polo, and a team leader in VEX Robotics. From winning the 2021-2022 South Bay League Championship to leading his robotics team to the state competition, Dean strives for excellence in everything he participates in. He thrives in the Scrap Engineering and Stock Investment Clubs, and spends his free time serving his community in a variety of ways. He has been involved in Street Racing Kills for 5 years, where he is a stand-in videographer and event coordinator for various events. Dean wants to eventually end up at a college in his home state of California, which is why the colleges he applied to are primarily in California. He ultimately wants to secure an engineering position at an Aerospace Engineering firm, and believes that with his tenacious efforts, this is achievable.

## **Marc Quiroga**

Throughout his high school career, Marc has taken regular courses, up until this last semester of his senior year. Since then he had decided to take honors economics and a psychology class at a local community college. Starting with his freshman year, he has held himself accountable to pass every single class with no less than a B grade, resulting in his obtaining a 3.4 GPA. In addition, outside of economics, he has been proactive in his community through community service and local volunteer work. For example, he has frequent his local Boys and Girls Club and aided wherever he can. He also helped with backpack stuffing for LA Clippers at his local elementary school for students. Academically he has been accepted at UC Riverside, his first choice, along with several other schools, but has not made a final decision. Whatever university he selects he wants to major in business management and administration to pursue his dream of starting his own businesses.

## **Valeria Rivera**

Valeria has made education her top priority, maintaining a 4.2 GPA. She has been awarded with Principal's Honor Roll all four years of high school. She has been named one of Banning High School's Scholars as she was in the top 20 in her class. She has continued to strive while being a student athlete, involved in multiple school councils while serving her community. Within school she was involved on the senior council and also the historian of the college prep magnet council. For all four years of high school she has played on the varsity softball team. She has heavily invested her time in Keystone Executives, a nationally recognized leadership program within the Boys and Girls Club. Within Keystone she had the opportunity to be a part of many community events such as Weekend Wellness where the club distributes free food to families within the community. Within the Boys and Girls Club she was also involved in the College Bound Program. Valeria has been accepted by several universities and plans to study business administration as she plans on being an owner of multiple companies.

## **Deven Rivers**

Deven has a GPA of 3.538, and have achieved High School honor roll at San Pedro High school. He is a co-president of the environmental advocacy team at San Pedro and participated in and hosted many community events at his school and outside of it. He is a member of the National Honor Society and an active member of the Boys and Girls Club of Los Angeles Harbor. Deven has been accepted into Simona State, which is his first choice, as well as CSU Bakersfield, Cal State Fullerton, University of Nevada Reno, CSU San Marcos, and Charles Drew University of Medicine and Science. He plans to be a Forensic pathologist which requires him to graduate from a four-year University and med school.

## **Erica Ro**

Throughout high school, Erica maintained a strong commitment to academics, completing a total of 11 AP courses with a weighted GPA of 4.94. She became a member of four honor societies and was recognized as a CSF Highest Honors 100% Membership Sealbearer, an AP Scholar with Distinction, and a National Merit Scholarship Finalist. As a dedicated member of the Science Research Team, she earned recognition from institutions like NASA and RICOH for her research projects. But she has also made just as much of an effort to dedicate herself to service. Erica strives to make an impact on her local, underserved communities as a member of the Key Club and on our local ocean ecosystems as the Co-President of the Surfrider Foundation Club. By dedicating over 250 hours to local aquariums, she also helped share marine biology and messages of environmental stewardship with thousands of people across SoCal and beyond. Her dream is to become a research scientist, studying the natural world she has always been fascinated by while working to preserve it for generations to come. Erica has been accepted to UCLA majoring in Environmental Science.

## **Crystal Sifuentes**

Crystal has been an honor roll student for 3 years, maintaining a 3.5 grade point average throughout high school while balancing her school work, extracurricular activities and college classes outside of school. While a Port of Los Angeles high school student she has accomplish many things including volunteering, college preparatory events, clubs, awards and other curricular outside of school. She has participated in multiple community services like food distribution, city events, garden volunteering, and others. She has been accepted at UC Davis, and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. She is planning on majoring in environmental science. Crystal's main career goal is to obtain a position in the policy aspect, impacting environment and ultimately our country. She wants to make an impactful difference in our worlds environmental issues, to create a change that benefits everyone and sustains our population to a better life.

## **Nadia Umana**

Nadia was an Honor Roll student for 3 years with a GPA of 3.34. Growing up in the San Pedro public housing with a single mother, she found a second home in the Boys & Girls Club inspiring her to defy the odds rather than becoming another statistic. Serving the community is a huge deal to her because she is someone who has been on the other side and in need, which is why it's so important for her to continue to give back. Community Services that she has participated in are the Weekend and Wellness, Boys and Girls Club Advanced Coach, and events within the San Pedro Property Owners Alliance. She has challenged herself academically through both school honors and college classes. She has also done internships with Kaiser Permanente to widen her knowledge of careers. She has applied to the University of La Verne, Cal State Northridge, and Pace University. Her goal is to major in psychology and minor in music to achieve her degree and ultimately a masters. Nadia would like to start her own clinic that helps preschoolers and young adults through mental health with the power of music therapy.

## **Alondra Vazquez**

Alondra has been honored to receive the Principal Honor Roll for 3 years. She was granted this award due to maintaining a 3.5 or higher GPA throughout the whole school year. Since she has maintained a high GPA she will be honored as part of the Scholar Fame Program. This is an award to the seniors who maintained a 3.5 or higher since the beginning of the freshman year. Her grade point average is 3.958. Alondra has been a part of the Banning High School's college preparatory magnet program for the past three and a half years. Her community service includes college peer counseling, the College Bound Program, and tutoring. She has been accepted to six universities including her first choice, UC Irvine. She plans to major in sociology to pursue a career in social work, providing her with the skills to better manage future cases.

## **Shieru Wada**

Shieru has maintained a 4.36 grade point average all the while taking Dual Enrolment courses, Honors, Advanced Placement, and participating in extracurricular activities. She has been recognized by her community for the hard work through multiple School High Dash honor and Principal's awards at school. The Boys and Girls Club of Los Angeles Harbor awarded her the Student of the Month and the True College Bound awards. Outside of school, she has participate in community service programs such as Letters for Rose, The Little Italy of Los Angeles Event, and even established her own nonprofit, Homeless not Helpless. She has been accepted to USC, UC Davis, Cal State Pomona, and Cal State Northridge. She will be pursuing a career in civil engineering. Her interest in going into civil engineering was brought by the possibility of providing a more comfortable standard of living to my loved ones and herself.

## **Aury Zapata**

Aury is a high achieving student who is part of the honors program, school of advanced studies, at San Pedro Senior High school. She has taken 20 dual enrollment courses which led her to receive a grade point average of 4.2 LAUSD weighted. She has been involved in numerous clubs like the Surfriders Club (treasurer) and American Sign Language Club (Founder and President). She is an active member within her community, through the Boys and Girls Club of the Los Angeles Harbor, the National Honor Society, and the Rotary Interact Club. Aury has been accepted at the University of Redlands as well as several other universities. Her career objective is to become a doctor and earn her Juris Doctorate to practice Health policy or law. Obtaining her objective of becoming a primary doctor would ultimately help her achieve her goal of making healthcare accessible to her surrounding communities.

## **Bella Zapata**

Bella attends the California Academy of Mathematics and Science (CAMS) where she has achieved a 4.45 GPA while also being concurrently enrolled at CSU Dominguez Hills and Compton College. At school she is also involved in the FIRST Robotics Competition Club where she is one of three captains in a team of 106 students. She has also been the Co-Director of Electrical Engineering Design and Development Club, Semifinalist of the StellarXplorers National Space Design competition, Math Tutor for UNICEF organization, and President of the Cooking Club. In her community she has helped by doing research on Prader Willi Syndrome for the Children's Hospital of Los Angeles and been a docent at the Deane Dana Friendship Park. Bella will be attending the University of Notre Dame and majoring in mechanical engineering to accomplish her goal of making prosthetics that are technologically advanced and affordable.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2023  
KIWANIS SCHOLARS**



## **The Kiwanis Club of Rolling Hills Estates Scholarship Program**

The Kiwanis Club of Rolling Hills Estates is pleased to offer scholarships to deserving students from our local South Bay area. The scholarship monies are allocated by the Club based upon the proceeds from donations and fund-raising activities.

The Kiwanis Club of RHE hopes to reward students who have shown special “heart” and performed to the best of their ability in high school, and it is recognized that this high level of achievement may have been maintained under difficult conditions related to family, outside endeavors, employment and other situations.

The scholarship committee considers academic merit, service and need. Students may be recognized for performing exceptional service to their school and to the community. Leadership in a Kiwanis Sponsored Youth program, such as KIWINS or Key Club, is favorably recognized.

Applications are welcomed from students planning to go to a four-year college or university as well as those planning to attend a community college or vocational program.

**The Kiwanis Club of Rolling Hills Estates** is a service organization located in the city of Rolling Hills Estates, California. The club was established as part of Kiwanis International, a global organization dedicated to improving the lives of children and communities.

The Kiwanis Club of Rolling Hills Estates is committed to serving its local community through a variety of service projects and programs. Some of their key initiatives include supporting local school children and educational programs, providing food to families in need, and partnering with other local organizations to promote community health and wellness.

The Club sponsors Key Club youth service clubs at local high schools to encourage young people to get involved in community service and leadership development.

Membership in the Kiwanis Club of Rolling Hills Estates is open to individuals who share the club's commitment to service and community improvement. Members participate in regular meetings and events, as well as volunteer opportunities throughout the year.

**Kiwanis International** is a global service organization dedicated to improving the lives of children and communities. The organization was founded in 1915 in Detroit, Michigan, and has since grown to include more than 550,000 members in over 80 countries.

Kiwanis International focuses on a range of service projects and programs aimed at addressing local and global needs. These include initiatives to support education, youth development, health and wellness, and community service. Kiwanis International also partners with other organizations to support disaster relief efforts and to promote peace and understanding.

# **Kiwanis Club of Rolling Hills Estates**

P.O. Box 2856  
Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274

<https://kiwanisclubrhe.org>

**Helping to Change the World One Child at a Time by helping them become independent, contributing citizens.**

**Since 1996 the Kiwanis Club of Rolling Hills Estates has strived to support our local community through scholarships and outreach programs.**

**Be our guest for a FREE lunch. We meet on the first and third Thursday of each month at noon, the El Pollo Inka Restaurant  
550 Deep Valley Dr #201,  
Rolling Hills Estates**