

*Juan Nevarez Memorial*  
SCHOLARSHIP  
IMPACT REPORT



hon

Karol, 2023 recipient





2025 Scholar Celebration



# Thank You!

from our Executive Director

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Because of you, the [Juan Nevarez Memorial Scholarship](#) is changing lives.

This year, we welcomed **six new scholars** to our program. These students represent an incredible range of dreams, from becoming an accountant to designing biomedical equipment. They are the future leaders of our communities, and every one of them is **the first in their family to attend college**.

What makes this scholarship unique is its long-term support. Each student receives **multi-year funding (up to \$20,000!)** and a **dedicated mentor**. That one-on-one support makes all the difference, especially for first-generation students navigating college for the first time.

You can see the impact in students like *Lizbeth*, who, after not being accepted into nursing school, worked closely with her mentor, Alex, to revise her resume, gain work experience, and eventually secure a spot in Cuesta College's nursing program. Or *Kimberly*, whose journey from math major to construction management was fueled by club involvement, mentoring check-ins, and a growing confidence in her future.

This momentum is only possible because of your generosity. **Together, we are building a sustainable program that will serve students for generations to come.**

Sincerely,








Beth Vukmanic  
Executive Director



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## MISSION

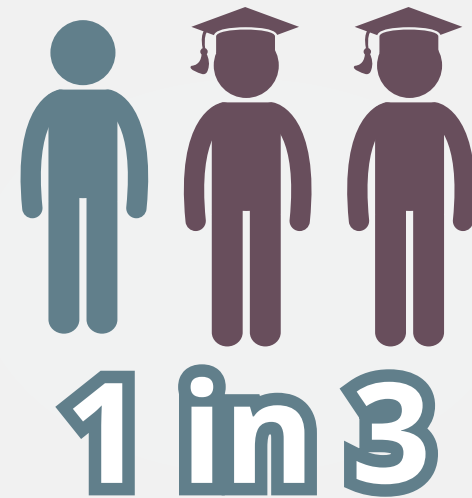
# Investing in the Next Generation

Higher education is important to many students but paying for college can be challenging.

**The Juan Nevarez Memorial Scholarship invests in the children of California's vineyard and winery workers.**

98 percent of awardees are **the first in their family to enroll in a higher education institution.**

This funding helps students and their families achieve their dream of becoming a college graduate and pursuing a professional career.



first-generation students leave college in the first 3 years due to:

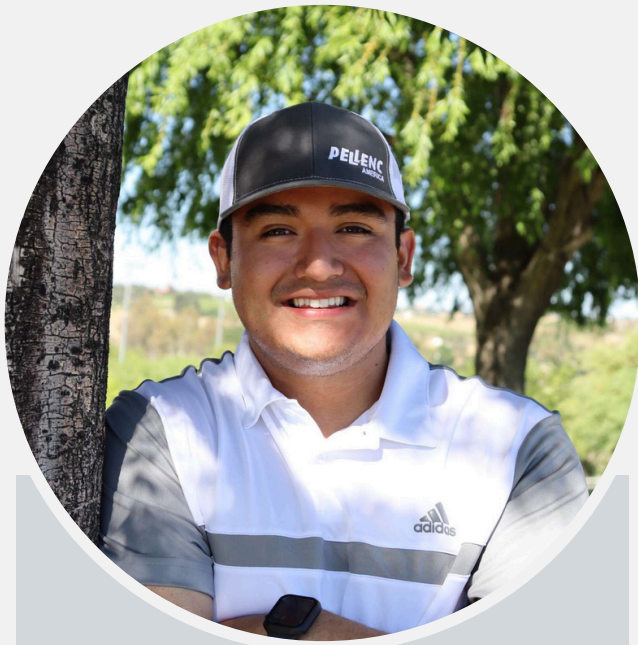
- Financial burdens
- Lack of support
- Inequitable access to resources

\*Education Advisory Board (EAB)



## SCHOLARS

# Cheers to an accomplished *Graduate!*



*"The scholarship allowed me to focus on school and be the best person I can be."*

Alberto grew up in the small agricultural town of Shandon, CA. Working alongside his father in the vineyards gave him firsthand insight into the challenges of farm labor—and the motivation to forge a different path.

Determined to honor his parents' sacrifices, he threw himself into his education. With the help of our scholarship program, Alberto earned welding certifications at Cuesta College, transferred to Fresno State to study viticulture, and graduated with honors in December, 2024.

Now pursuing his master's degree, he continues to excel by conducting research, leading student organizations, and gaining hands-on experience in the field he loves.

We're proud to welcome Alberto as a featured speaker at the 2025 Sustainable Ag Expo, where he'll share his research and his story with over 500 members of the broader agricultural community.

From student to scholar to speaker, Alberto's story is a powerful reminder of what's possible when a community comes together to invest in the next generation.





## SCHOLARS

## 2025 *Recipients*



**Adanely**, Sonoma State Univ.  
**Alberto**, Cal State Fresno  
**Alexis**, San Diego State Univ.  
**Ana Carolina**, UCLA  
**Blanca Flor**, Cuesta College  
**Carlos**, UC Merced  
**Cristal**, Cuesta College  
**Daisy**, Cal Poly - SLO  
**Daniel**, Cuesta College  
**David**, Cuesta College

**Denise**, Yale University  
**Erick**, UC Davis  
**Erid**, Cal Poly - SLO  
**Evelyn**, Cal Poly - SLO  
**Fabiola**, Mendocino Community College  
**Jessica**, UC San Diego  
**Karitina**, Cal State Sonoma  
**Karol**, Fresno City College  
**Kimberly**, Cal Poly - SLO  
**Kristal**, Cal State Fresno

**Lizbeth**, Cuesta College  
**Lupita**, Sacramento State Univ.  
**Martin**, Cal Poly - SLO  
**Nancy**, Hartnell College  
**Ramses**, UC San Diego  
**Rocelin**, Cal State Long Beach  
**Rosa**, Cal Poly - SLO  
**Sayuri**, Cal State Northridge  
**Yasmin**, Cal Lutheran Univ.



## STATISTICS

### SINCE 2015...

- 69 SCHOLARS
- \$436,000 AWARDED
- 98% FIRST-GENERATION

Thanks to a partnership with [Must! Charities](#), this unique program provides multi-year scholarships and support services.

By providing a mix of financial aid and mentorship, this program helps boost graduation rates and develop a qualified workforce that is committed to serving their community.

*"This scholarship means the world to me and my family. I can't thank you enough for this opportunity."*

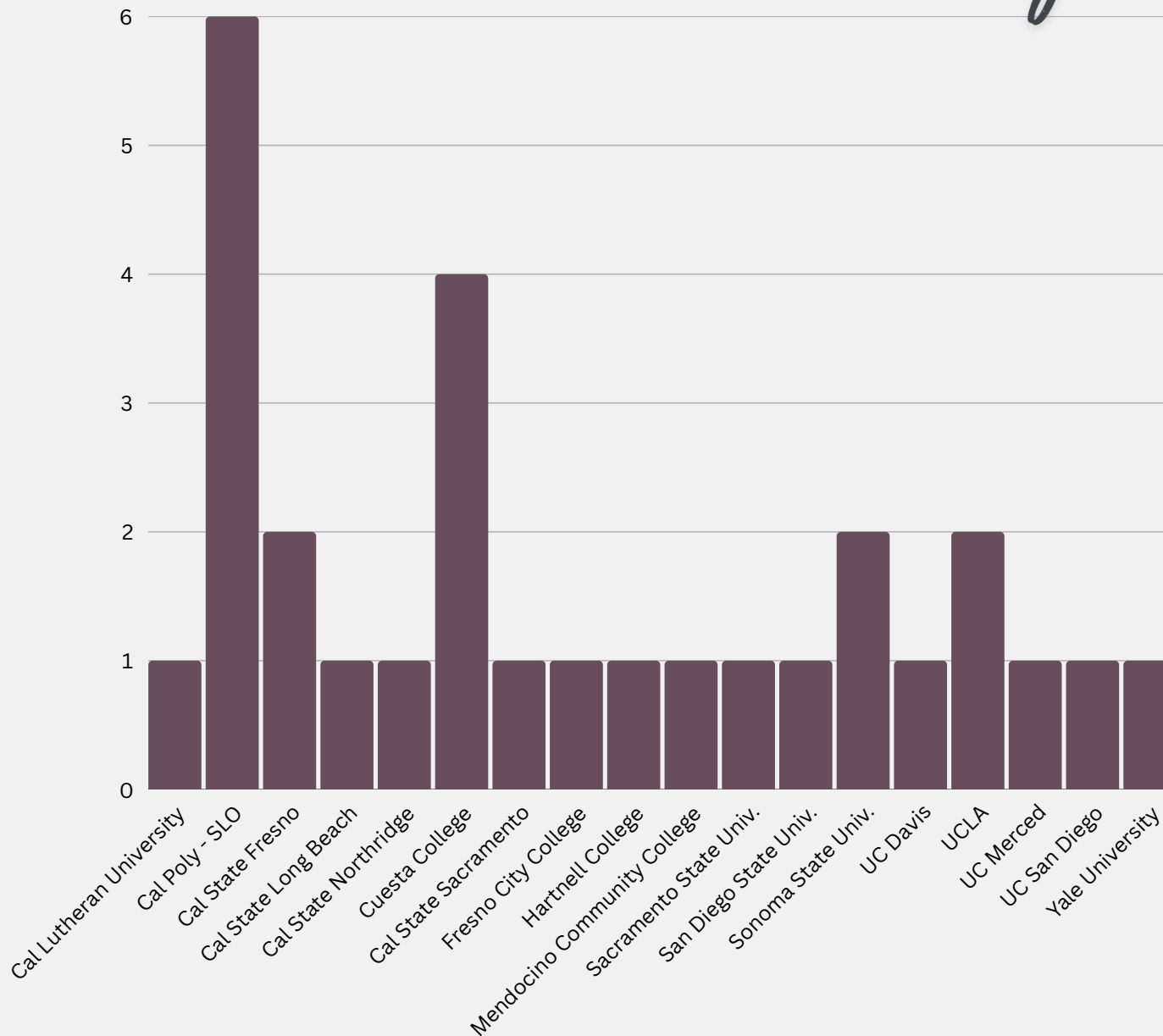
- **Martin**, 2025 Recipient, Cal Poly - SLO





## STATISTICS

### Where Students are *Attending*



**18**  
SCHOOLS  
*across*  
**12**  
COUNTIES  
*in*  
**2**  
STATES

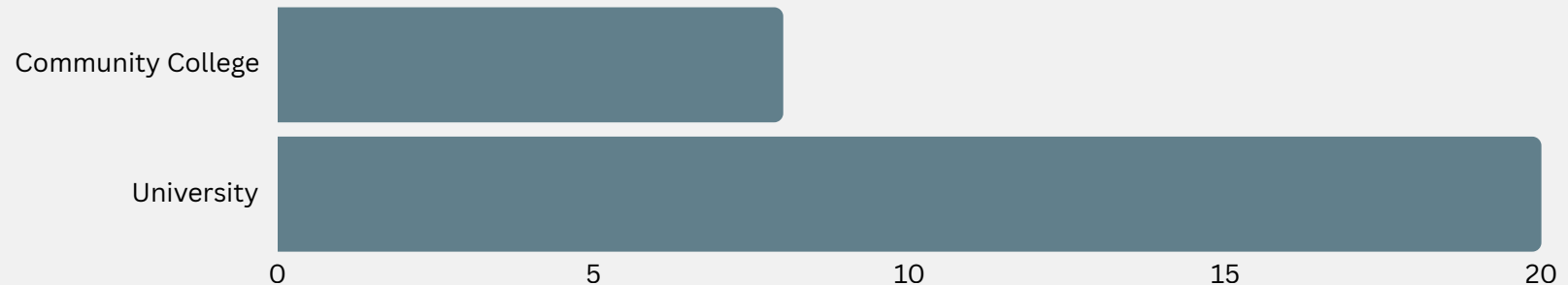
## Scholar Program Type

### 18 FIELDS OF STUDY

*"It didn't matter what we wanted to study. Dad insisted we don't come home until our diploma was ready to hang on the living room wall!"*

**- Mia Nevarez,**  
*Daughter of Juan Nevarez*

- Agriculture
- Biology
- Business
- Computer Science
- Construction Management
- Criminal Justice
- English
- Finance
- General Education
- Interior Design
- Kinesiology
- Mathematics
- Nursing
- Paralegal
- Political Science
- Pre-Medical
- Psychology
- Viticulture





## PEOPLE

# More than a *Scholarship*

While financial support in college is critical for students, we know scholarship dollars alone are not enough.

Scholarship providers have a unique opportunity to positively impact student success by also investing in support services that help students thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

Students who receive these services are more likely to remain engaged and enrolled, ultimately increasing their chances of graduating and achieving their goals ([National Scholarship Providers Association 2023](#)).

Because our **goal is college success**, this program provides more than financial support.

RIPPLE EFFECT

**326 +**

LIVES IMPACTED



*"I have connected with a Yale alumni through Vineyard Team's network. We bonded over the residential colleges and shared our educational experiences. I will never forget the help the Vineyard Team has provided me in my journey as I traverse this new chapter of my life. "*

**- Denise, 2024 Recipient, Yale University**

## PEOPLE

# Scholarship *Mentor*

Each scholar receives one-on-one support from a dedicated mentor to help them navigate the higher education system.

**Mentor Alex Gonzalez helps students with their biggest challenges** like transitioning from high school, budgeting for college expenses, and creating a resume.

For over 20 years, Alex has helped first-generation students and families access financial aid and scholarships. He looks for innovative ways to connect students with resources that will help them graduate successfully.

*"Alex connected me with a Vineyard Team Tailgate event, an amazing opportunity that deepened my excitement for studying viticulture."*

**- Daisy,**  
2024 Recipient, Cal Poly - SLO

*"I work one-on-one with students to review grades, celebrate wins, and tackle challenges. We map out transfer plans, internships, studying strategies, and key deadlines—so they're always ready for what's next."*

**-Alex Gonzalez,** Scholarship Mentor





## PEOPLE

# Scholarship *Committee*



**Erin Amaral**  
Pacific Coast Farming



**Lori Bickel**  
Community Member



**Katie Bruce**  
Niner Wine Estates



**Amy Freeman**  
Baker Wine & Grape Analysis



**Randy Gray**  
Must! Charities



**Mia Nevarez**  
Nevarez Farm Labor



**Caitlyn Pierini**  
Gibbs Vineyards



**Mindy Record**  
Treasury Wine Estates



**Denise Shurtleff**  
Cambria Vineyards & Winery

## PEOPLE

### Who is *Juan Nevarez*?



Juan Nevarez



Left to right: Juan Jr, Eufemia, Mom (Martha), Grandma (Juan's mom) Oscar and Juan Sr.

This program is named in honor of Juan Nevarez, a beloved member of the Central Coast winegrape industry, whose kindness, expertise, and passion shaped many local vineyards.

*"Juan was not only a pillar in the community but a respected colleague and friend. He valued education and made it his mission to help the families of his employees reach their full potential."*

**- Chloé Asseo-Fabre, L'Aventure Winery**

At 17, Juan left Durango, Mexico, for the mushroom fields of Pennsylvania. Years later, he and his wife Marta made their way to Paso Robles, CA where Juan took on every vineyard job imaginable. His dedication and eye for improvement soon earned him a leadership role in the region's wine industry.

Despite his own struggles with reading and writing, Juan was deeply committed to education and encouraged his three children to attend college and earn a diploma. Today, they run the family business and his daughter, Eufemia, continues his legacy as a member of the scholarship's Selection Committee, where she helps identify the next generation of students this program will support.



## COMMUNITY

# Thank You *Generous Donors*

Contributions from the community continue to be essential to the success of the program. In the true spirit of sustainability, we want to create a long-lasting program that will better the lives of our industry's children for decades.

*"We are proud to support a program that shares our values and commitment to community, education, and the future of California's wine industry. This program not only honors the legacy of hard work, but also invests in a brighter, more inclusive future for our community."*

- **Matt Kleefisch**, The Ava Hotel



**Luis Almeida**

Constellation Brands

**Jorge Ambriz**

JUSTIN Vineyards & Winery

**Andrew Anzaldo**

The Wonderful Company

**Autumn Badelt-Fanning**

**Penny Baldwin**

**Candace Balestra**

Caymus Vineyards

**Renee Berkus**

**Heather Billing**

Wallace Group

**Tim Boyle**

Computer Climate

**Katy Budge**

**Diane Burkhardt**

**Casey Butler**

Butler Agricultural Research LLC

**Cal-Coast Machinery**

**Magdaline Call**

Gallo

**Amanda Carson**

Nichino America

**Steve Carter**

J. Lohr Vineyards, Inc.

**Caraccioli Cellars**

**Luke Changala**

Riboli Family Wines

**Coastal Vineyard Care**

**Coast Hills Federal Credit Union**

**Chrissie Davis**

Koppert

**Aharon Davoyan**

Energy Incentives, Inc.

**Joe DeClue**

JUSTIN Vineyards & Winery

**Melissa Egger**

Coastal Vineyard Services

**Jack Emerson**

John Anthony Vineyards

CONTINUED...

Thank You *Generous Donors***Les Evans**

Shadow Run Vineyards &amp; Winery

**Amy Freeman****Esteban Garcia**

Sea Smoke Vineyards

**Joe Garcia**

Jaguar Farm Labor Contracting

**Sally Gibson****Robert Gonzales**

Gonzalez Ranch Co. - Tecolote Vineyard

**Bill & Nancy Greenough**

Saucelito Canyon Vineyard &amp; Winery

**Vic Guerrero**

Atlas Vineyard Management

**Richard Hanke**

Hanke Vineyard

**Alejo Herrera**

JUSTIN Vineyards &amp; Winery

**Israel Herrera**

JUSTIN Vineyards &amp; Winery

**Travis Hill**

Corteva Agriscience

**Samantha Horn**

O'Neill Vintners and Distillers

**Lucia Hossfeld**

Hossfeld Vineyards

**Mike & Juliet Howlett**

Athyrium Vineyard

**Jason Inoff**

Glanris

**Jackson Family Wines****Jim's Supply Co.****J. Lohr Vineyards****Lindsay Jordan**

Constellation Brands

**JUSTIN Vineyards & Winery****Mike Keller****Kevin Kester**

Bear Valley Vineyards

**Wayne Koehler**

National Housing Associates, Inc.

**Ben Kolber**

KG Vineyard Management

**Jeff Koligian****Nick Konen**

Forest Hills Farms, Inc.

**Roman Kozak**

Verdi

**Edward Kronfli**

Vine Shepherd Vineyard Management

**Kylix Vineyard****L'Aventure Winery****Jordan Lab**

Wilbur Ellis

**Cole Lauchland**

KG Vineyard Management

**Kristin Lowe**

Vine Balance Consulting

**Craig Macmillan****Kara Maraden**

Foley Family Farms

CONTINUED...



Thank You *Generous Donors*



\*Fundraising year is  
7/1/2024 to 6/30/2025.

**Pam Marrone**

Invasive Species Corporation

**Jim Matsuyama**

**Mary McCammon**

**John McCarthy**

Far Niente Wine Estates

**Matt McMillan**

Deerpoint Group

**Miller Family Wine Company**

**Michael Montesi**

Montesi Vineyard

**Kelly Mulville**

Paicines Ranch

**Must! Charities**

**Clemente Nevarez**

JUSTIN Vineyards & Winery

**Valeriano Nevarez**

JUSTIN Vineyards & Winery

**Nevarez Farm Labor**

**Niner Wine Estates**

**Oso Libre Ranch Inc.**

**Christopher Payne & Jeannette  
Potts**

Al Pie Del Cielo

**Jesus Ramirez**

J Lohr Vineyards

**Mindy Record**

**Alejandro Robles**

JUSTIN Vineyards & Winery

**Nikki Rodoni**

Measure to Improve

**Rudy Romero**

Romero Vineyard Management

**Cristian Romero**

Silverado Farming Company

**Terry Rosetti**

Farmecology

**Mathew Smith**

Nutrien Ag Solutions

**Emily Smith**

Simplot Grower Solutions

**Terry & Pebble Smith**

**Rob Sorenson**

The Duckhorn Portfolio

**The Ava Hotel**

**The Duckhorn Portfolio**

**Jennifer Thomson**

FELCO

**Bob Tillman**

Alta Colina Vineyard & Winery

**Pati Todd**

**Maritza Trujillo**

Silverado

**Vineyard Industry Products**

**Jason Yeager**

FARM Paso Robles - John Anthony Vineyards

**Maria Zumkeller**

Lange Twins, Inc.

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*Scholarship Administrator & Mentor*

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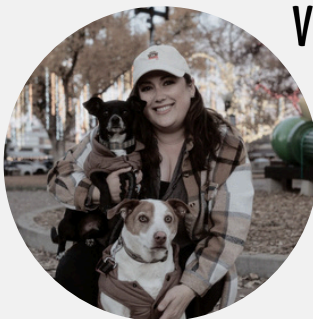


**VINEYARD TEAM**

**Hayli Macomber**

*Outreach & Education Coordinator*

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**Whitney Brownie**

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*Follow Along!*



[thevineyardteam](https://www.instagram.com/thevineyardteam)



*"The mentorship has been extremely helpful. I would almost call it a cheat code. I'm a first generation college student, so having someone [Mentor Alex] that has experience in navigating the university system has been extremely helpful."*

**-Alberto**, 2019-2024 Recipient, Fresno State University

*"My parents left Mexico to give my siblings and I a better future. I want to make my parents proud by finishing school and obtaining my degree to pursue my dream of becoming a pediatrician, making me the first doctor in my family."*

**- Lupita**, 2022 Recipient, Sacramento State University



*"I am deeply honored by the opportunity to advance my studies and professional goals. I will make every effort to live up to expectations and contribute positively to our community. "*

**- David**, 2024 Recipient, Cuesta College





*"My parents never had the chance to finish high school. They left their education behind to work and build a future in the U.S., not for themselves, but for me. "*

*- Evelyn, 2025 Recipient, Cal Poly - SLO*

*"The scholarship eased my financial burden, so I could focus on school and extracurriculars. That helped me earn a high GPA, serve my community, and land a police department internship."*

*- Christian, 2021-2024 Recipient, UC Davis*



*"I have been accepted into the Cuesta nursing program! I still cannot believe it, and I am so grateful for this opportunity and your support. Thank you again for your support and mentorship during this process."*

*- Lizbeth, 2021 Recipient, Cuesta College*



Kristal, 2023-present recipient

Kristal recently finished her second year at California State University, Fresno, where she's thriving academically and working toward her dream of becoming a physical therapist. This summer, she's taking key steps by connecting with clinics, applying for volunteer roles, and preparing for hands-on patient experience.



Carlos, 2022-present recipient  
*(middle)*

Carlos is now focused on professional growth. He's been proactive in sharpening his resume, seeking career advice, and preparing for life after graduation. Actively interviewing for internships, he's eager to gain hands-on experience in the field.



Kimberly, 2023-present recipient

When Kimberly arrived at Cal Poly, she was set on studying math, but a financial aid hiccup and a few surprising turns led her to something even better. With support from her mentor, Alex, she found her footing and discovered a passion for construction management, where she now thrives through clubs, networking, and hands-on opportunities that bring her skills to life.



David, 2024-present recipient

David has spent his first year at Cuesta College adjusting to cultural differences while pursuing his passion for viticulture. With support from his program mentor and a proactive approach to tutoring, he's making the most of campus resources, balancing work and school, and exploring ways to give back through volunteering.





Erid, 2025-present recipient

When Erid's mother first noticed his hearing loss, language barriers kept his family from understanding the diagnosis. That experience stuck with him. Studying biomedical engineering at Cal Poly, Erid is driven to design medical devices that eliminate confusion and improve care for families like his.



Fabiola, 2025-present recipient

When Fabiola's grandmother passed away in a tragic car accident on the way to work in the fields, her world changed. That moment sparked her dream of pursuing a career in healthcare. This fall, she's attending Mendocino Community College to prepare for a career in medical imaging, where she can be there for others during life's most critical moments.

# *Juan Nevarez Memorial* SCHOLARSHIP

