



*Juan Nevarez Memorial*  
**SCHOLARSHIP**  
IMPACT REPORT



2023

*Karol, 2023 Scholarship Recipient*

# *Thank You!* from our Executive Director

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Your donation has made a profound impact on the children of California's vineyard and winery workers. Recipients of the **Juan Nevarez Memorial Scholarship** are more than just academic standouts; they are family translators, sibling tutors, household breadwinners, and single parents. Above all they are **resilient**.

Since its inception in 2015, 98 percent of the program's recipients have been the first in their families to achieve higher education. **To date, this community-funded program has awarded \$350,000 to 63 deserving students.**

As the program continues to grow, so does our pride in our community supporters and the scholars who embody the essence of Juan Nevarez, a beloved California Central Coast winegrape industry member who believed in the importance of higher education.

*Your generosity is transforming the lives of each student and their family.*

Thank you for investing in the next generation.

Sincerely,








Beth Vukmanic  
Executive Director



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## MISSION

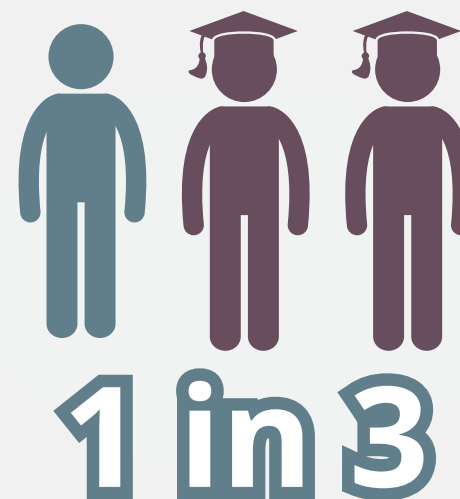
# Investing in the Next Generation

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 \(EAB\).](#)



## Cheers to an accomplished *Graduate!*



*"Now that I'm graduating, I look back at my first day of college and am proud of how my ability to navigate and thrive in independence has grown."*

In spring of 2024, Christian graduated from the University of California at Davis and the university's Cadet Academy with a Certificate of Excellence from UC Davis Police Department.

Ready to step into a career, he is applying to law enforcement agencies across California, including the UC Davis Police Department and the California Highway Patrol.

Christian began receiving the Juan Nevarez Memorial Scholarship in 2021. Today, he shares two profound impacts that the program had on his college experience:



The first was to alleviate financial strain, enabling him to prioritize academics and extracurricular activities. The second was the support and guidance he received from Mentor Alex Gonzalez:

*"Alex gave me the encouragement and resources I needed to thrive academically, professionally, and personally. He gave me tips to land internships, helped refine my resume, and so much more. His support has been a huge help."*

## SCHOLARS

## 2024 *Recipients*



**Adanely**, Sonoma State Univ.  
**Alberto**, Cal State Fresno  
**Alexis**, San Diego State Univ.  
**Ana Carolina**, UCLA  
**Blanca Flor**, Cuesta College  
**Carlos**, UC Merced  
**Christian**, UC Davis  
**Cristal**, Cuesta College

**Daisy**, Cal Poly - SLO  
**Daniel**, Cuesta College  
**David**, Cuesta College  
**Denise**, Yale University  
**Erick**, UC Davis  
**Karol**, Fresno City College  
**Kimberly**, Cal Poly - SLO  
**Kristal**, Cal State Fresno

**Lizbeth**, Cuesta College  
**Lupita**, Hartnell College  
**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

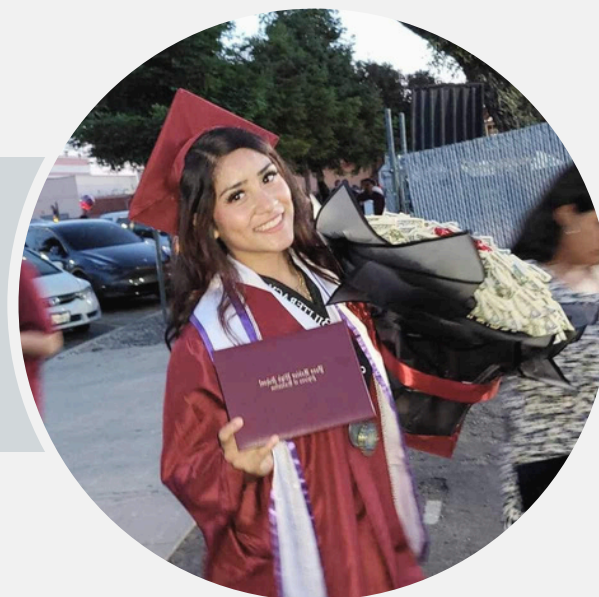
### SINCE 2015...

- 63 SCHOLARS
- \$350,000 AWARDED
- 98% FIRST-GENERATION

Thanks to a partnership with **Must! Charities**, this unique program provides multi-year scholarships and support services.

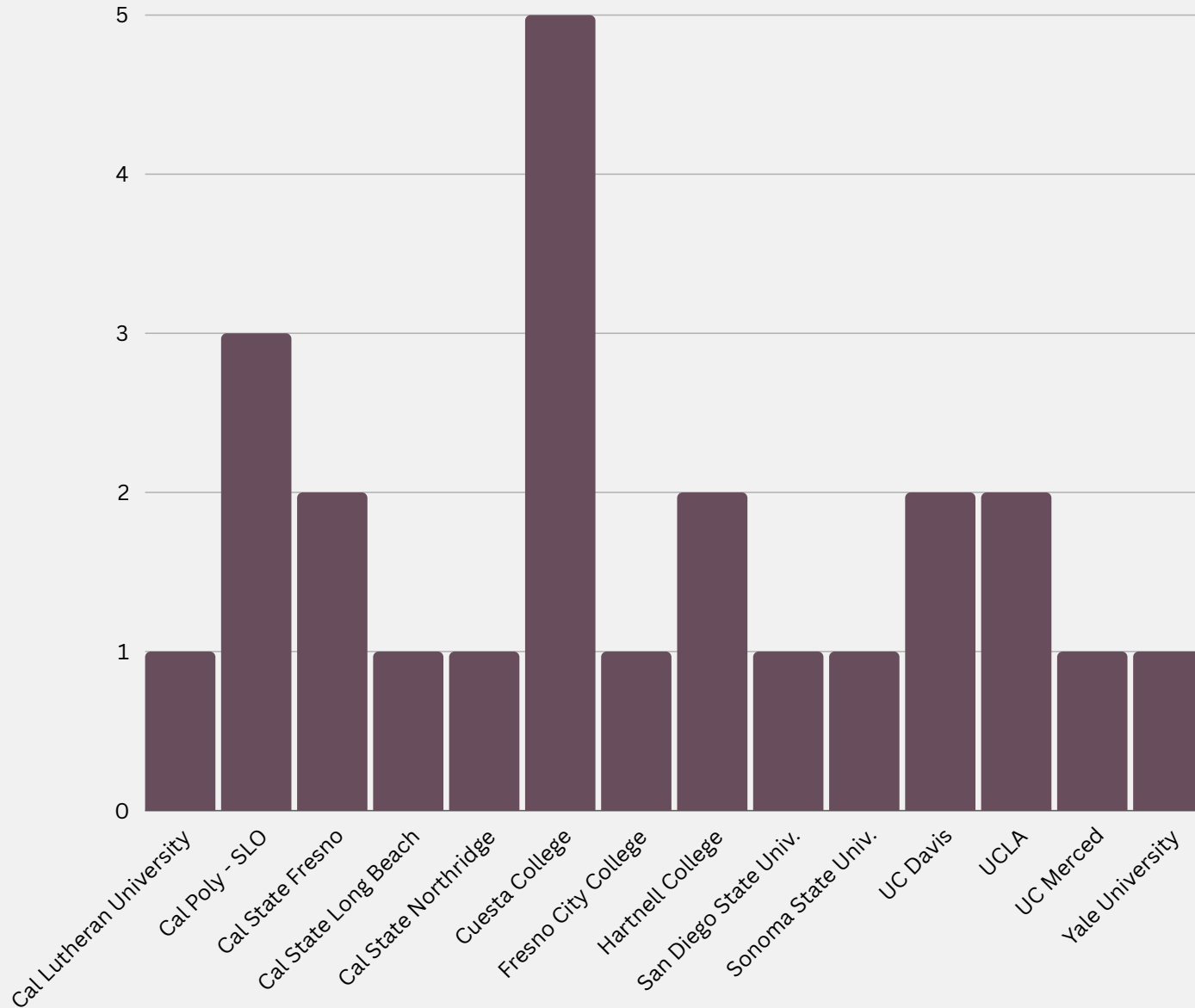
By providing a mix of financial aid and mentorship, this program helps boost graduation rates and develop a qualified workforce that is committed to serving their community.

2024 Recipient Sayuri aspires to become a Certified Public Accountant and business professional. She served on the Must! Charities Youth Board while in high school and looks forward to giving back to her family, the community, and the organizations near and dear to her heart.



## STATISTICS

### Where Students are *Attending*



**124**  
SCHOOLS  
*across*  
**11**  
COUNTIES  
*in*  
**2**  
STATES



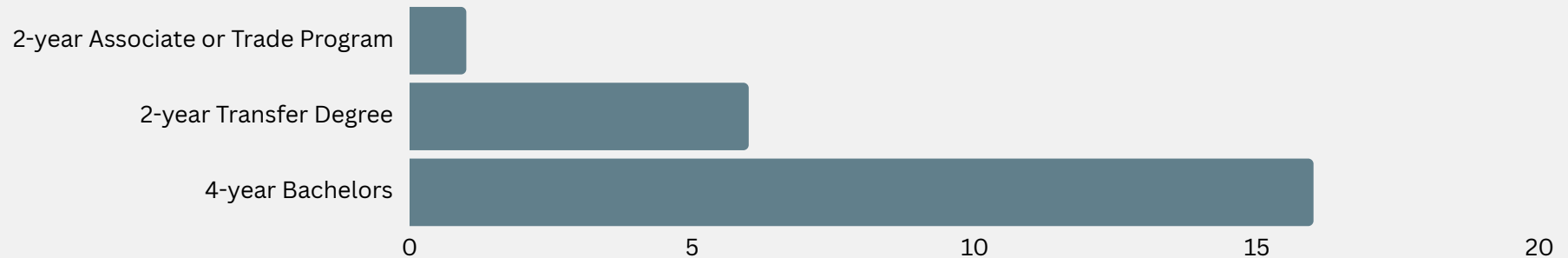
## Scholar Program Type

### 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
- Criminal Justice
- English
- Finance
- General Education
- Interior Design
- Kinesiology
- Mathematics
- Nursing
- Paralegal
- Political Science
- Pre-Medical
- Pre-Nursing
- 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

**298 +**

**LIVES IMPACTED**



*"I was struggling to keep up in my history class. The strategies I learned from the newsletter have been a game changer. My notes are more organized, and studying feels less overwhelming."*

- **Krystal**, 2023 Recipient, Fresno State 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.

*"It's comforting to know that I have another mentor to go to if I need extra help."*

**- Lizbeth,**  
2022 Scholarship Recipient

*"Behind the scenes, I am dedicated to helping students navigate the financial aid process, making sure they meet important deadlines, fill out required paperwork, and get support for any special situations or appeals."*

**-Alex Gonzalez,** Scholarship Mentor



## PEOPLE

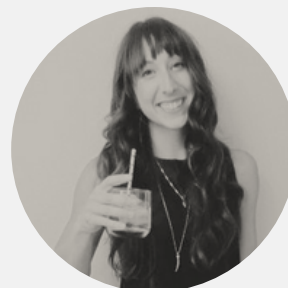
# Scholarship *Committee*



**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**  
JUSTIN Vineyards & Winery



**Denise Shurtleff**  
Cambria Vineyards & Winery



## PEOPLE

### Who is *Juan Nevarez?*



Juan Nevarez



Juan (Jr.) & Oscar Nevarez

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.

From an early age, Juan knew that success required taking responsibility and actively working towards goals. He was only 16 years old when he made a life-changing decision to move from Mexico to California. Alone, undocumented, and without an education, Juan began setting the foundation for a long and successful career in viticulture.

Juan spent a lifetime working every job he could gathering knowledge and building deep-rooted relationships. Over time he established Nevarez Farm Labor and his own eighty-acre vineyard.

Even though he achieved success, he was adamant that his children receive an education so they would not face the same challenges.

*"Our Dad had one requirement for his children: we must graduate from college," shares his daughter, Mia. "It didn't matter what we wanted to study or where, but he insisted we don't come home until our diploma is hanging on the wall!"*

Today, Juan's children, Mia, Juan, and Oscar, run the family business. They support the scholarship through financial contributions and time commitment, with Mia serving on the Scholarship Committee.

The family is proud to continue their dad's mission to help people reach their full potential through education.

## 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.

*"Making sure the children of first-generation farm workers have the same opportunity as my kids is extremely important. It's a complex problem. The financial scholarship & mentorship that is part of the Juan Nevarez Memorial Scholarship addresses that."*

- **Andy Niner**, Niner Wine Estates, Donor



### **Victor Arreola**

Constellation Brands

### **Kris Beal**

### **Julian Bello-Rodriguez**

Root Applied Sciences

### **Heather Billing**

Provost & Pritchard

### **Jonathan Blas**

RDO Equipment Co.

### **Teri Blaser**

Sespe Creek Insectary

### **Keith Bolton**

Nevada Winery Management

### **Melissa Bordi**

Sutter Home Winery, Inc.

### **Doug Boyer**

Last Frontier Vineyards

### **Tom Brast**

Buttonwillow Warehouse Co.

### **Katy Budge**

### **Liz and Dennis Byrnes**

### **Diane Burkhardt**

### **Gino Camozzi**

Agrology

### **Chamisal Vineyards**

### **Heidi Changala**

Changala Winery

### **Chareva Vineyards**

### **Chateau Robles Inc.**

### **Thomas Clemens**

Clemens Vineyard Equipment, Inc.

### **Gina Colfer**

Wilbur-Ellis

### **Carter Collins**

Viticultural Management, Inc.

### **CoastHills Credit Union**

### **Corvis Wealth Advisors**

### **Paul & Giselle Crout**

### **Custom Vineyard Application**

### **Kelli Cybulski**

Atlas Vineyard Management

### **Damian Maldonado Memorial Foundation**

Thank You *Generous Donors***Joe DeClue****John Derr**

John Derr Farming

**Elizabeth Dickson****Dorcich Family Vineyards****Duckhorn Wine Company****Farm Napa Valley / Farm Paso  
Robles****Cary Fowler**

Coastal Tractor

**Amy Freeman****Karse Giudici**

L.A. Hearne Company

**William T. Greene**

TGM Vineyards Greene/ Spalding Inc.

**Mark Greenspan**

Advanced Viticulture Consulting, Inc.

**Glen Grisham**

Locus Wine Consulting

**Dennis Grumling**

Ag Spray Equipment

**Robert Gustin**

GPG Development

**Alyssa Hall**

Robert Hall Winery/O'Neill

Vintners &amp; Distillers

**Helena Agri-Enterprises****John Helm**

Western Ag Research Professionals

**Ian Herdman****Dillon Holworthy**

Coastal Tractor

**Mike and Juliet Howlett**

Athyrum Vineyard

**Jackson Family Wines****Brian Jones**

CoastBio

**JUSTIN Vineyards & Winery****Lindsay Jordan**

Constellation Brands

**Kevin Kalfayan****Kassler Sustainable Vineyard  
& Winery Auditing Services****Kevin Kester**

Bear Valley Ranch &amp; Vineyards

**L'Aventure Winery****David Langone****Eraclio Luviano****Craig Macmillan****Matt Madsen**

Arroyo Seco Canyon Vineyard

**Kara Maraden**

Foley Family Farms

**Mary McCammon****Mechanics Bank****Efren Medrano**

Coastal Vineyard Care

**Zachary Merkel**

CONTINUED...

## COMMUNITY

# Thank You *Generous Donors*



*\*Fundraising year is  
7/1/2023 to 6/30/2024.*

**Dana Merrill**

Mesa Vineyard Management

**Daryn Miller**

Monterey Pacific Inc

**Greg Miller**

Nichino America Inc.

**Jon Moench****Patrick Murphy**

Helm Agro

**Must! Charities****David Nerpel**

Agrauxine

**Clemente Nevarez****Nevarez Farm Labor****Valeriano Nevarez****Niner Wine Estates****Oxbo International Corporation****Paso Ridge Vineyard****Paso Robles Wine Country Alliance****Steve Peck****Penergetic****Anji Perry****Heigi Pillor**

Hall Wines

**Eric Pooler**

Silverado From Nuveen Natural Capital

**Thomas Ramirez**

Gallo Vineyards

**Raul Rodriguez**

The Graft Corp

**Root Applied Sciences****Herb Rowland**

Gallo Vineyards

**Molly Scott****Sea Smoke****Seven Oxen - Estate Wines****Denise Shurtleff**

Cambria Winery & Vineyards

**Diane Smith**

Earth & Sky Studio

**Terry and Pebble Smith****Macy Stubstad**

Lawrence Wine Estates

**Dave Terry**

Coastal Vineyard Care Associates

**Kyle Theriot**

Ridge Vineyards

**Anyssa Trujillo**

Gallo Vineyards

**Maritza Trujillo**

Silverado From Nuveen Natural Capital

**Vine to Vintner Consulting****Vineyard Industry Products****Wonderful Nurseries****Wonderful Orchards****Jason Yeager**

FARM Paso Robles - John Anthony Vineyards

**Hillary and Anthony Yount**

Royal Nonesuch Farm



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VINEYARD  
TEAM

**Hayli Macomber**  
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**Whitney Brownie**  
*SIP Certified Coordinator*  
whitney@vineyardteam.org



## *Follow Along!*





*"Immigrating here was the spark that ignited the fire in me to be a proud member of the country I call home. This opportunity is a dream come true."*

**- Rosa**, 2024 Recipient, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

*"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, Hartnell College



*"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 got the chance to even attend high school. Seeing how hard their jobs are knowing they wish they could continue their education pushes me to continue mine."*

**- Yasmin**, 2022 Recipient, California Lutheran University

*"I am planning on attending Cal Poly SLO with a major in wine and viticulture with a vision to vision to innovate and navigate the challenges posed by the climate crisis. "*

**- Daisy**, 2024 Recipient, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo



*"As a first-generation student, I have always had the goal of graduating from a four year university. I dream of becoming a certified interior designer and create beautiful, comfortable spaces that my clients can call home. "*

**- Rocelin**, 2023 Recipient, Long Beach State University



# *Juan Nevarez Memorial* SCHOLARSHIP

