



Juan Nevarez Memorial
SCHOLARSHIP

IMPACT REPORT

2026

Kimberly, 2023 recipient



Thank You! from our Executive Director

Because of you, the Juan Nevarez Memorial Scholarship is changing lives.

This year, we welcomed **six new scholars** from California vineyard and winery families. They arrive with ambitious goals and a deep desire to give back.

Dulce hopes to become a nurse so every family feels heard during difficult moments. Diego wants to design clean technologies as a mechanical engineer. Tania, a future civil engineer, dreams of improving roads and access to clean water in the rural communities where her family is from.

These students aren't just earning degrees, they're preparing to solve real problems.

What makes this scholarship unique is its long-term support. Each student receives **multi-year funding (up to \$20,000!) and a dedicated mentor** who helps them navigate college and prepare for their career.

Mentorship goes beyond academic advice. This year, our mentor connected aspiring viticulture student David, with former scholarship recipient Alberto, leading to an internship that is giving him valuable hands-on experience.

This momentum is only possible because of your generosity. Together, we are building a sustainable program that creates **opportunities for students today and stronger communities tomorrow.**

Sincerely,

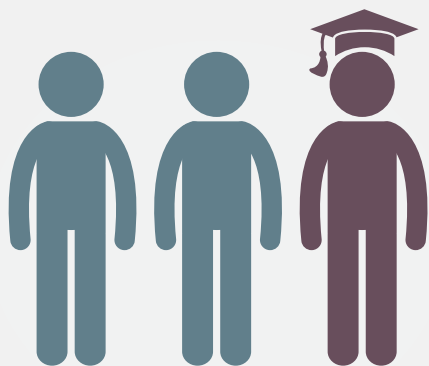


Beth Vukmanic, Executive Director



MISSION

Investing in the Next Generation



2X

First-generation students were twice as likely to leave college without earning a degree compared to students whose parents had college degrees.

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.

Cheers to an accomplished Graduate!

SCHOLARS



"The scholarship provided critical financial peace of mind, which allowed me to focus entirely on my coursework and technical projects."



When Carlos arrived at UC Merced, the transition to college was not easy. The demanding computer science coursework challenged him academically, and being away from home left him feeling homesick. Over time, he found support through a close-knit group of friends, campus organizations, and his scholarship mentor, Alex, who encouraged him to keep pushing forward.

As Carlos settled into college life, he began taking ownership of his future. He refined his study habits, attended industry conferences, pursued research opportunities, and sought out professional experiences beyond the classroom. His confidence grew alongside his technical skills, transforming him from a student finding his footing into a young professional preparing for a career in technology.

His hard work began to open doors and he earned a highly competitive internship with Transdev, working onsite at Waymo. The experience helped launch opportunities with leading technology and engineering organizations, including Raytheon, Lockheed Martin, and Waymo.

This fall, Carlos will relocate to Arizona to begin his career as a Software Engineer at a major aerospace and defense company. From a homesick freshman learning to navigate college life to a graduate launching a career with one of the nation's leading technology companies, his journey reflects the opportunities that become possible when talent, hard work, and support come together.

SCHOLARS

Current *Scholars*



Alejandro, UC Berkeley
Alexis, San Diego State Univ.
Anadelia, Cal Poly - SLO
Daisy, Cal Poly - SLO
David, Cal Poly - SLO
Diego, San Jose State Univ.
Dulce, Allan Hancock College
Denise, Yale Univ.
Erick, UC Davis

Erid, Cal Poly - SLO
Evelyn, Cal Poly - SLO
Fabiola, Mendocino Comm. College
Hector, San Jose State Univ.
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
Ramses, UC Los Angeles
Rocelin, Cal State Long Beach
Rosa, Cal Poly - SLO
Sayuri, Cal State Northridge
Tania, UC Berkeley

SINCE 2015...

- 75 SCHOLARS
- \$532,000 AWARDED
- 98% FIRST-GENERATION

Thanks to a partnership with Must! Charities in 2022, the program was able to formalize multi-year scholarships and provide mentorship for every student.

By combining financial support with personalized guidance, the program helps students overcome barriers to graduation and prepares future professionals who will strengthen their communities.

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

- **Kristal**, 2023 Recipient, Fresno State Univ.



Scholar Pathways

121+ **FIELDS OF STUDY**

- Biology
- Business
- Computer Science
- Construction Management
- Engineering
- English
- Finance
- Kinesiology
- Marketing
- Nursing
- Pre-Health
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Viticulture

17 *in* **10** *in* **2**
SCHOOLS **COUNTIES** **STATES**



"This program creates opportunity without limitations."

It supports the dreams of vineyard and farmworking families without forcing students into a specific path."

- Randy Gray,
Must! Charities

More than a *Scholarship*

PEOPLE

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

324 +

LIVES IMPACTED



"This scholarship not only helps financially, but also gives me a sense of community, and that's something really special."

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

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.

"Many students don't realize that tutoring centers, career services, workshops, recreation spaces, and student programs are already included in their tuition and fees. Part of mentorship is helping students identify and access those resources so they can feel more confident navigating college life."

- Alex Gonzalez, Scholarship Mentor

"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



Scholarship *Committee*

PEOPLE



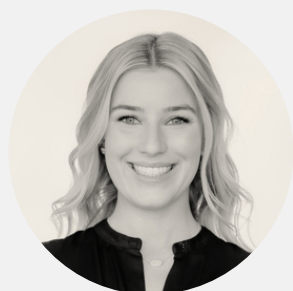
Erin Amaral
Pacific Coast Farming



Elaine Barrera-Nicholson
Flagstar Bank



Katie Bruce
Niner Wine Estates



Morgan Couch
JUSTIN Vineyards & Winery



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

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.

"As JUSTIN Vineyards & Winery's first employee, Juan championed education and lifelong learning. He believed knowledge created opportunity and worked to expand access to training for vineyard employees. His scholarship fund continues that legacy today."

- Justin Baldwin, Founder, JUSTIN Vineyards & Winery



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

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, Mia, 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.

Thank You *Generous Donors*

COMMUNITY

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.

"Supporting the Juan Nevarez Memorial Scholarship is important to us because it invests in the people and families who are foundational to the wine industry, creating opportunities for the next generation of leaders."

- **Marika Rothfeld**, The Duckhorn Portfolio



Josephine Ambrose

Penny Baldwin

Billy Booker
Coastal Tractor

Gary & Linda Bouchard

Riley Boylan
Cypress AgriTech

Katy Budge

Dennis & Liz Byrnes

Bill & Doris Cooper
Cooper-Garrod Vineyards

Cassidy Crew

Paul & Giselle Crout

Paula Dooley
Stephen Ross Wine Cellars

Amy Freeman

Joe Garcia

Sally Gibson

Randy & Becky Gray

Andrew Heilbrun
Vine to Vintner Consulting

Ian Herdman

Lucia Hossfeld

COMMUNITY

Thank You *Generous Donors*

*Fundraising year is
7/1/2025 to 6/30/2026*

Michael & Juliet Howlett
Athyrium Vineyard

Eric Jenssen
IntelliCulture

Megan Kavanaugh

Tim Lichatowich
TILICH Ag

John Mackey
Paso Ono Vineyards

Jim Matsuyama

Mary Ellen McCammon

Beth McCasland

Dana Merrill
In Memory of Esther Kosty

Michael Montesi
Montesi Vineyard

Kelly Mulville
Paicines Ranch

Gary Omori

**Christopher Payne
& Jeannette Potts**

Steve Peck

Daniel Rodrigues
Vina Quest
In Memory of Esther Kosty

Bill Schwoerer

Diane & Stephen Smith

Pebble & Terry Smith

Pati Todd

Maritza Trujillo

Beckstoffer Vineyards

Bien Nacido Vineyards

Foley Family Wines & Spirits

Helena Agri-Enterprises

JUSTIN Vineyards & Winery

L'Aventure Winery

Must! Charities

Nevarez Farm Labor

Niner Wine Estates

The AVA Hotel

**The Duckhorn Portfolio
Founders Fund**

Vineyard Industry Products

Staff *Contacts*

COMMUNITY

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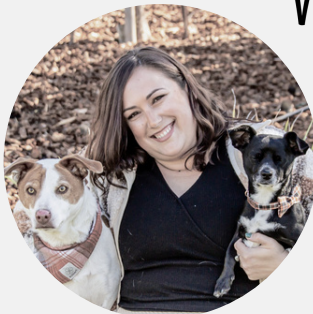


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VINEYARD TEAM

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Whitney Brownie
SIP Certified Coordinator
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Follow Along!





Fabiola, 2025-present recipient

Fabiola is tackling the demands of her Allied Health program one late-night study session at a time, with "Freddy" the skeleton helping her master anatomy.

As she works toward a career in radiology, she continues balancing school with a part-time job serving the same vineyard communities that shaped her family.



Jessica, 2025-present recipient

Jessica says, "College is definitely humbling." After adjusting to UC San Diego's fast-paced quarter system, she's built confidence through study groups and tutoring.

She's also been promoted to Shift Lead at her campus job and found community through Hermanas Unidas as she works toward a career improving mental health care in underserved communities.



Adanely, 2022 graduated recipient

After graduating from Sonoma State in 2026, Adanely is working as a Registered Behavior Technician (RBT) providing in-home therapy for children with autism.

She plans to begin a master's in Applied Behavior Analysis through Arizona State University in Spring 2027, with the long-term goal of becoming a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA).



David, 2024-present recipient

David is preparing to transfer to Cal Poly to study agriculture after balancing college, work, and family responsibilities.

With guidance from his scholarship mentor and the Vineyard Team network, he secured a summer internship with Mesa Vineyard Management and is gaining the confidence, experience, and industry connections to launch his career in sustainable viticulture.



Tania, 2026 recipient

Tania's passion for civil engineering was inspired by her family's hometown in Oaxaca, where reliable infrastructure remains a challenge.

This fall, she'll attend UC Berkeley to study engineering, with the goal of building stronger communities and encouraging more young women to pursue careers in STEM.



Diego, 2026 recipient

Diego, valedictorian of his class, discovered a passion for engineering through internships with Energy Vault and Palisades Vineyards.

This fall, he'll begin studying mechanical engineering at San Diego State University with the goal of developing clean technologies for the future.



"I genuinely could not have made this possible if it weren't for the financial assistance the Vineyard Team provided me. I am eternally grateful not to be that financial burden on my parents and to be able to do volunteer work to help other students in need."

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

"Having a mentor with experience navigating the university system has been extremely helpful. I would almost call it a cheat code!"

- **Alberto**, 2022 Recipient, Graduate from Fresno State Univ.



"The aid I received from the scholarship played an immense role in my college years. It gave me leverage to manage my time as I did not have to stress about overworking myself to pay for tuition as much."

- **Christian**, 2021 Recipient, Graduate from UC Davis

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