

SAN BRUNO

Community Foundation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SAN BRUNO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION HONORS TEN OUTSTANDING SAN BRUNO STUDENTS WITH CRESTMOOR NEIGHBORHOOD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Foundation Awards Multi-Year Scholarships Totaling \$160,000

San Bruno, California, May 11, 2023 – The San Bruno Community Foundation today announced the 2023 recipients of the Crestmoor Neighborhood Memorial Scholarship. Founded in 2016, the Scholarship provides multi-year college scholarship awards to exceptional San Bruno students who have demonstrated a strong commitment to the San Bruno community. The 2023 Crestmoor Scholars are Capuchino High School seniors Awab Abdelgadir, Oscar Caballero, Lena Feldman, Siofra Linden, Rubi Santacruz-Huerta, and Adrian Womack, College of San Mateo student Grace Rofii, and Skyline College students Julio Lau, Eureka Soriano, and Alysia Tanimura.

The Foundation created the Crestmoor Scholarship in 2016 in honor of the community members most directly affected by the disaster, especially the eight San Bruno residents who lost their lives. The scholarship program ensures that the tragedy of September 9, 2010, is not forgotten and that the resiliency, teamwork, leadership, and commitment to community displayed throughout San Bruno in the aftermath of the explosion are honored in the annual recipients of the Scholarship. Since 2016, 81 deserving San Bruno students have received Crestmoor Scholarships totaling \$1,195,000.

In 2023, the Foundation is awarding multi-year scholarships totaling \$160,000. Headed to four-year colleges in the fall, Abdelgadir (who will attend UC Berkeley), Caballero (UC Santa Cruz), Feldman (UC Davis), Linden (UCLA), Santacruz-Huerta (UC Davis), and Womack (UC Riverside) will each receive a \$20,000 scholarship (\$5,000 a year for four years). As transfer students, Lau (who is headed to UCLA), Rofii (to be determined), Soriano (San Francisco State University), and Tanimura (UCLA) will each receive \$10,000 in scholarship funding (\$5,000 a year for two years).

“As student leaders, LGBTQ+ activists, social justice advocates, environmental ambassadors, accomplished athletes, talented artists, aspiring scientists and physicians, and dedicated volunteers, the 2023 Crestmoor Scholars are inspiring and represent the best in San Bruno,” said Malissa Netane-Jones, President of the Foundation’s Board of Directors. “By awarding the Crestmoor Scholarships, the San Bruno Community Foundation invests not just in each individual student, but in the future of our community.”

This year, the Foundation received 69 applications for the Crestmoor Scholarship. In selecting the 2023 recipients from a highly competitive applicant pool, the Foundation’s selection panel evaluated, first and foremost, applicants’ demonstrated engagement in the San Bruno community, as well as their financial need, academic record, extracurricular activities, and examples of leadership, teamwork, and collaboration – important qualities that were displayed throughout the San Bruno community in the aftermath of the 2010 explosion and fire. Brief biographies of the ten 2023 Crestmoor Scholars can be found on the Foundation’s website at www.sbcf.org.

SBCF is funding the 2023 Crestmoor Scholarship with investment proceeds from a portion of the restitution funds resulting from the City of San Bruno’s settlement with Pacific Gas & Electric Company following the 2010 gas pipeline explosion that devastated San Bruno’s Crestmoor neighborhood, as well as a generous donation from Allan and Mary Lou Johnson.

The Foundation will recognize the 2023 Crestmoor Scholars at its June 7, 2023, Board meeting which will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the San Bruno Senior Center, 1555 Crystal Springs Road, San Bruno. Community members are welcome to attend in person and will have the opportunity to meet the Crestmoor Scholars at 6:30 p.m. at a reception preceding the 7:00 p.m. Board meeting. The public may also attend the Board meeting virtually on Zoom, starting at 7:00 p.m.:

Zoom Webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84822260798?pwd=OFVVRZ3hrSkZKK2pYNFFiQ0h6cEtvUT09>

Webinar ID: 848 2226 0798

Passcode: 347046

Dial-in: (669) 900-6833

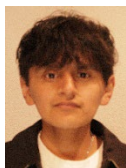
The San Bruno Community Foundation is the nonprofit organization created by the City of San Bruno to administer the \$70 million in restitution funds received from PG&E after the devastating 2010 gas pipeline explosion in San Bruno's Crestmoor neighborhood. The Foundation serves the San Bruno community by investing in projects, programs, services, and facilities that have significant and lasting benefits. Through making grants, leveraging partnerships, and taking advantage of other resources, the SBCF assists and enables the community to maximize shared investments and realize their subsequent enhancements and benefits. For more information, visit www.sbcf.org.

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The San Bruno Community Foundation honors 10 San Bruno students who have demonstrated a strong commitment to the San Bruno community with multi-year college scholarships totaling \$160,000.



AWAB ABDELGADIR: Committed to increasing access to STEM opportunities for low-income students, Awab successfully led a campaign to bring computer science courses to Capuchino High School. Awab is a peer tutor in math and English, mentored San Bruno youth in coding and engineering through BoostKids!, volunteers at Mills-Peninsula Medical Center, is co-president of the Robotics Club, is president of the Black Student Union, leads the Sewing Club, and has served on the School Site Council. Awab will study computer science and cognitive science at UC Berkeley.



OSCAR CABALLERO: Oscar is a Capuchino High School scholar in the International Baccalaureate diploma program and a member of the San Bruno community who makes a difference. An active volunteer at St. Bruno Catholic Church, Oscar is secretary of the Animal Awareness Club and a member of Latino Unidos and the Environmental Club. He volunteers at a local assisted living facility, while also working at two restaurants. A cancer survivor, Oscar has served as a motivational speaker for children battling childhood cancer. With plans to major in electrical engineering, Oscar will attend UC Santa Cruz this fall.



LENA FELDMAN: With aspirations of becoming a physician, Lena will begin her studies at UC Davis this fall. As a volunteer at Musical Castle Preschool, Lena has provided a wide range of childcare services including teaching English to Russian-speaking children. She also provides tutoring to Ukrainian refugees to help them learn English and adjust to life in the United States. In addition to volunteering at Mills-Peninsula Hospital, Lena has served on the Capuchino High School Site Council, taught swimming lessons at the YMCA, and distributed meal kits to food-insecure families through Kind Hearts for You.



JULIO LAU: Julio is a trailblazer who left his family and community in Peru to pursue his education in the United States. Understanding firsthand the challenges facing English language learners, Julio is an English tutor at The Learning Center at Skyline College, primarily supporting international students. Julio has served as an associate senator of Skyline's student government, vice president of finance of the Honors Club, and is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society. Julio is an entrepreneur who started a cell phone accessory import business, and he will study business as a transfer student at UCLA.



SIOFRA LINDEN: Committed to addressing the challenges of climate change, Siofra relaunched and has served as president of Capuchino High School's Environmental Club, organizing Earth Day rallies and spearheading and securing grant funding for an initiative to place PurpleAir air quality monitors around San Bruno. She is a four-year member of the track and cross country teams, is the concertmaster for the Capuchino Chamber Orchestra, plays violin in the Peninsula Youth Orchestra, and served as a San Mateo County Youth Climate Ambassador. Siofra will attend UCLA this fall.



GRACE ROFII: A 2021 graduate of Capuchino High School, Grace is completing her degree in communication studies at the College of San Mateo. In high school, Grace was president of the Sexuality and Gender Alliance Club and led inclusive sex and gender health education seminars. A star athlete since her days with the San Bruno Girls Softball League, Grace was an all-league player on the Capuchino softball team and has served as a coach at youth softball camps. A starter on the CSM team that won the program's first state championship, Grace will transfer to a four-year college to continue her education and softball career.



RUBI SANTACRUZ-HUERTA: With a desire to help diverse populations in need, Rubi is determined to become a pediatrician, and this fall she will begin undergraduate studies at UC Davis in pursuit of this dream. At Capuchino High School, where she is a scholar in the International Baccalaureate diploma program, Rubi has served as co-president of the Animal Awareness Club, a varsity cheerleader, and an active member of the Black Student Union, Leos Club, and Latino Unidos. Rubi is also an intern at Mills-Peninsula Hospital, teaches youth gymnastics, and started her own handcrafted soap business.



EUREKA SORIANO: A student leader at Skyline College, Eureka has served on the Student, Equity, Equal Employment and Diversity Committee, the Curriculum Committee, and the SPARC Committee. As Commissioner of Activities, Eureka has celebrated the community's cultural diversity, organizing a Filipinx Night Market, live Tongan dance performances, weekly Latinx festivities, and LGBTQ+ speaker panels. She also advocated for policy changes in San Mateo County to protect students from second-hand smoke as a Youth Leadership Institute intern. Eureka will transfer to San Francisco State University this fall.



ALYSIA TANIMURA: As a woman in computer science, Alysia is a trailblazer who seeks to open doors to underrepresented communities in STEM fields. At Skyline College, Alysia has served as a peer mentor providing critical support to first-generation college students, club liaison for the student government, and president of the Honors Club. In addition, she was founder and president of the Computer Science Club, a member of WISER (Women in Science and Engineering Represent), and a STEM Pathways Research Scholar intern. Alysia plans to major in mathematics of computation at UCLA.



ADRIAN WOMACK: Adrian is committed to ensuring that San Bruno is an inclusive, welcoming community. At Capuchino High School, he is co-founder and president of SAGEx Club, which promotes opportunities in STEM to underserved communities, is an active member of the Sexuality and Gender Alliance Club, serves on the Student Equity Council, is secretary of the Cap Kababayan Club, and worked with other students to paint a mural in downtown San Bruno. An aspiring physicist, Adrian is on the leadership team of TeenTechSF, is a member of the Math and Robotics clubs, and this fall will begin his studies at UC Riverside.