

# **SAN BRUNO**

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## **Community Foundation**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **SAN BRUNO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 2021 RECIPIENTS OF THE CRESTMOOR NEIGHBORHOOD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

***SBCF Awards \$195,000 in College Scholarships to 13 Outstanding San Bruno Students for Their Service to the San Bruno Community***

**San Bruno, California, May 28, 2021** – The San Bruno Community Foundation today announced the 2021 recipients of the Crestmoor Neighborhood Memorial Scholarship. In its sixth year, the Crestmoor Scholarship provides multi-year college scholarship awards to outstanding San Bruno students who have demonstrated a strong commitment to the San Bruno community. The 2021 Crestmoor Scholars include Capuchino High School seniors Michael Eiserle, Jocelynn Franco, Carlos Gonzalez, Mia Ledesma, Rania Mili, Cassidy Anne Patron, Isabella Ramirez, and Estefany Vega and Skyline College students Alejandra Aguirre, Khaoula Aissaoui, Alyssa Gacos, Christopher Wardell, and Anthony Yu.

SBCF is funding the 2021 Crestmoor Scholarship with generous donations from the Joseph W Welch Jr Foundation, the San Mateo County Association of REALTORS® Foundation, and Allan and Mary Lou Johnson as well as 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.

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, 59 deserving San Bruno students have received Crestmoor Scholarships totaling \$845,000.

“Resilience, passion, and commitment to the community are common characteristics of this year’s Crestmoor Scholars,” said Emily Roberts, President of the Foundation’s Board of Directors. “Despite the challenges they have faced as high school seniors and community college students in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 Crestmoor Scholars have made their mark in San Bruno as campus leaders, club presidents, women’s health advocates, food distribution volunteers, peer tutors, swim coaches, musicians, and dancers. We are thrilled to support their pursuit of a college education with multi-year scholarships. They bring us tremendous hope for the future of our community and our world.”

This year the Foundation is awarding 13 scholarships totaling \$195,000. Headed to four-year colleges in the fall, Franco (who will attend UCLA), Gonzalez (UC Merced), Ledesma (San Francisco State University), Mili (Menlo College), Patron (UCLA), Ramirez (San Francisco State University), and Vega (California State University, East Bay) will each receive a \$20,000 scholarship (\$5,000 a year for four years). Eiserle (who will attend Woodland Community College) will receive a \$5,000 scholarship (\$2,500 a year for two years). As transfer students, Aguirre (San Jose State University), Aissaoui (Stanford University), Gacos (San Francisco State University), Wardell (Western Governors University), and Yu (UC Berkeley) will each receive \$10,000 in scholarship funding (\$5,000 a year for two years).

This year, the Foundation received 58 applications for the Crestmoor Scholarship. In selecting the 2021 recipients from a 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 2021 Crestmoor Scholars are attached as well as posted on the Foundation’s website at [www.sbcf.org](http://www.sbcf.org).

The Foundation will recognize the 2021 Crestmoor Scholars at its June 2, 2021, Board meeting which will be held at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Community members are welcome to attend:

*Zoom Webinar:*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82311706738?pwd=dE1ReEFUdU50bmd1RW5PbjZYaC9LZz09>

*Webinar ID: 823 1170 6738*

*Passcode: 127340*

*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, SBCF assists and enables the community to maximize shared investments and realize their subsequent enhancements and benefits. For more information, visit [www.sbcf.org](http://www.sbcf.org).

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Community Foundation

## 2021 CRESTMOOR NEIGHBORHOOD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

*The San Bruno Community Foundation recognizes 13 San Bruno students who have demonstrated a strong commitment to the San Bruno community with multi-year college scholarships totaling \$195,000.*

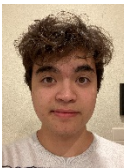
*Thank you to the Joseph W Welch Jr Foundation, the SAMCAR Foundation, and Allan and Mary Lou Johnson for their support.*



**ALEJANDRA AGUIRRE:** An internship in public service years ago along with caring for her autistic brother planted the seeds for Alejandra Aguirre's interest in sociology. At Capuchino High School, Alejandra supported the youth in the San Bruno Library's Homework Center. At Skyline College, she has been a mentor and club officer in TRiO Student Support Services. Her ultimate goal, after transferring this fall to San Jose State University, is to be a pediatric social worker in chronic illness care.



**KHAOULA AISSAOUI:** Khaoula Aissaoui took full advantage of Skyline College's support and, in return, has shared her strengths as a student resources leader in ESL classes, a peer mentor to over 30 students, an English tutor in the Learning Center, and a volunteer with the ESL registration process, where she has related her immigrant story to other students. This fall Khaoula's journey of hard work leads her to Stanford University, where she will major in sociology.



**MICHAEL EISERLE:** With a passion for performing music for the San Bruno community, Michael Eiserle has been a leader and team member in Capuchino's High School marching, symphonic, and concert bands all four years, while maintaining strong academics. His inner strength to maneuver life's challenges has influenced Michael's goal to pursue the field of psychology and share his empathy. This fall Michael plans to start the journey to achieve this dream at Woodland Community College.



**JOCELYNN FRANCO:** Jocelynn Franco thrives on supporting her community, including more than 250 hours of participation in Capuchino's Interact Club and peer tutoring. Jocelynn's most impactful service has been her leadership of the Homeless Outreach Project to create care packages for a local homeless shelter. With the goal of attending medical school and eventually participating in Doctors Without Borders, Jocelynn will begin her studies in biology at UCLA this fall.



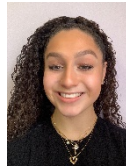
**ALYSSA GACOS:** Alyssa Gacos is an engaged member of the Skyline College community, funneling creativity and analytical skills into TRiO's Student Support Services as marketing officer and social media coordinator. As club president, she boosted student morale and improved workshop participation during the pandemic. When she transfers to San Francisco State University, she will continue on her creative path in business administration with a concentration in marketing.



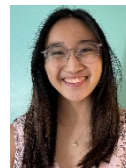
**CARLOS GONZALEZ:** Carlos Gonzalez has connected with the San Bruno community as a recreation center swim coach, a food preparer at the Catholic Worker Hospitality House, an Interact Club member at Capuchino High School, and founder of its Skateboarding Club. Carlos will head to University of California, Merced, this fall, with plans to study business.



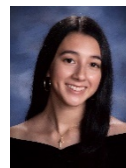
**MIA LEDESMA:** Despite the pandemic, Mia Ledesma has continued to positively impact those around her through a variety of activities, including leading a women's health drive for local shelters and committing six years of active engagement in the Leos Club. Her musical strings skills in the Capuchino Chamber Orchestra have been an extra gift to San Bruno. Mia plans to continue helping others through forensic science-related studies at San Francisco State University.



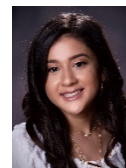
**RANIA MILI:** A scholar in Capuchino's International Baccalaureate Diploma program, Rania Mili has served San Bruno as a Police Explorer since 2017, participating in ride-alongs with police officers and attending community events in uniform. Her volunteer work also includes serving as a Junior Giants assistant coach, helping at Second Harvest food distributions, and contributing her social media skills to local city campaigns. With aspirations of becoming a Supreme Court Justice, Rania will attend Menlo College.



**KASSIDY ANNE PATRON:** Recipient of the Outstanding Interact Award and club president, Cassidy Patron has demonstrated her commitment to serving both Capuchino and the San Bruno community through a variety of different roles. Cassidy has successfully balanced the challenging International Baccalaureate Diploma program with her involvement at the San Bruno Senior Center, Music in the Park, school rallies, and more. She plans to begin her studies in the life sciences at UCLA this fall.



**ISABELLA RAMIREZ:** Isabella Ramirez has lit up the Capuchino High School stage and warmed the hearts of community members through her artistic cardmaking skills, ballet performances, dedication to the Leos Club, and service as an Outdoor Education cabin leader. With the concern of family members' health as inspiration, Isabella took action to make a difference by co-founding the women's health drive. She will focus her collegiate studies in biochemistry at San Francisco State University.



**ESTEFANY VEGA:** With a passion for sharing her Latino culture, Estefany Vega has served as co-chair and secretary of Latinos Unidos at Capuchino High School. She co-founded Grupo Folklorico to perform cultural dances at school and community events such as Día de los Niños. Despite the challenges of being the first in her family to attend college, Estefany is dedicated to helping others and plans to pursue a degree in pediatric nursing at California State University, East Bay.



**CHRISTOPHER WARDELL:** Skyline College has inspired Christopher Wardell to become a lifelong learner. In return, he has empowered fellow Skyline students as a peer mentor, supplemental instruction leader in algebra, teaching assistant for the JumpStart program, and student panelist on discussions about racism. He will transfer this fall to Western Governors University. Chris plans to become a licensed CPA with the goal of helping people from marginalized communities develop greater wealth.



**ANTHONY YU:** Anthony Yu's leadership roles at Skyline College as Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society president, co-president for the Kappa Beta Delta International Honor Society, and senator for the student government have taught him valuable skills in supporting others. Working as a student ambassador, he has connected academically and socially with Skyline's international students. Anthony will pursue business administration at UC Berkeley while continuing to serve his community.