

David Shank spent his entire career at Helms Middle School where he was a well-liked Industrial Arts and Math teacher. His support of students lives on with a generous donation to the WCCRE scholarship fund. (*Anjelika Khadka, DeAnza High School*)

Norma Thinger served the district for over 30 years as an elementary school teacher (Peres, Sheldon), mentor teacher, and both CalRTA Div #58 and Scholarship Fund board member. As an avid supporter of the scholarship awards, she helped raise funds from dozens of donors and assisted in choosing worthy scholarship recipients. Norma left an indelible impact on everyone she worked with, taught, and mentored. She'll always be remembered as a loving, caring, and giving person. Her legacy continues through this scholarship award. (*Nadine Lanila, DeAnza High School*)

Linda Townsend The Middle College high school community always evolves best under those who love the most, like their beloved Mz. T. Over ten years she selflessly gave her energy, time, and support to match preparation with opportunity. Many MCHS scholars have claimed academic, financial, and moral support under her tutelage. PUT THE PEDAL TO THE METAL, her favorite adage, supported moving forward always. The Sojourner Truth Food Pantry stayed fully functional under her watch. She showered all in poetic love and artistic grace. Her spirit lives on in the receivers of the Linda Townsend Community Service Scholarship award. May her brilliant smile beam forever. (*Myvi Tran, Middle College High School*)

Rick Tracy/Mary Jo Beyer Rick was a kind, caring, diligent, and dedicated educator. He taught at every elementary grade level in the district and also served as vice principal and principal, retiring as principal of Hanna Ranch. At the height of the Vietnam War, Rick was drafted into the army directly out of his classroom at Montalvin Manor and served a year in Vietnam. While there, he mobilized his family back home to send clothing and food donations. He grew to detest war. His wife, **Mary Jo Beyer** was a loving and popular kindergarten teacher. Because both Rick and Mary Jo believed in the importance of higher education, they have created a memorial scholarship for graduating WCCUSD seniors. (*Chloe Giang, Hercules High School*)

WEST CONTRA COSTA RETIRED EDUCATORS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

46th Annual

Scholarship Awards

June 2, 2022



West Contra Costa
Division 58

The West Contra Costa Retired Educators Scholarship Fund Board wishes to thank retired and current employees and friends of education for their continued generosity in supporting this important program. To date, the Fund has granted a total of \$1,120,250 to 764 students.

Despite the fact that the celebration of the current scholarship awardees takes place against the ongoing backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, the amazing achievements of the 2022 scholarship recipients cannot be dimmed.

The academic success and the leadership skills this group has demonstrated is an excellent predictor of the roles they will play in the future of our community, our country, and the world.

We congratulate you!

WCCRE SCHOLARSHIP FUND MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the West Contra Costa Retired Educators Scholarship Fund is to raise funds to provide post-secondary scholarships to students graduating from the following schools of the West Contra Costa Unified School District: DeAnza High, El Cerrito High, Sylvester Greenwood Academy, Hercules High, Kennedy High, Middle College High, Pinole Valley High, Richmond High, Vista High, and the West Contra Costa Adult School.

HISTORY

In 1977, the California Retired Teachers Association (CalRTA), Division #58, representing retired employees of the Richmond Unified School District, (now the WCCUSD), began a fund to honor A.L. Bernes, a counselor for 30 years, by awarding scholarships to high school graduates. The first year, an award of \$100 was given—**this year there are 41 awards of \$2,000 each.** We wish to thank the generosity of all of the retired and current employees and friends of education who help us continue this important program.

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING

A special thank you to all scholarship donors as well as the participants in the following:

The Annual Benefit Drawing, Donations, CalRTA Division #58 Annual Budget Allocation, Memorial and Honorarium Gifts, Boutique Sales, Little Red Schoolhouse Donations, Amazon Smile Donations, and the Scholarship Quilt Raffle.

Thank you to all who donated to the WCCRE Scholarship Fund
Please visit our website at wccrescholarship.org

WCCRE Scholarship Fund Board of Directors

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Ex Officio Members CalRTA Division #58: Sandy Price and Jo Scherich

2022 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

DE ANZA HIGH SCHOOL

Aaliah House *Flor Limon*
Anjelika Khadka *Wasiya Shah*
Prerana Khadka *Sahaj Singh*
Irene Kou *Lionel Verano, IV*
Nadine Lanila

EL CERRITO HIGH SCHOOL

Aayushma Bhandari *Vivian Huang*
Zachary Chin *Jacob Klein*
Samantha Collins *Kelly Ko*
Lauren Fong *Nathan Shum*

HERCULES HIGH SCHOOL

Chloe Giang *Kiana Pinkard*
Hillary Khuu

KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL

Karla Alvarado Guevara *Kimberly Nguyen*
Alicia Hanvey *Eveling Rodriguez Torres*
Beatrice Leal

MIDDLE COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL

Jose Barrios Lopez *Christopher Rodriguez Torres*
Parneet Bhatia *Myvi Tran*
Kylee Hu

PINOLE VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

Zoya Alam *Annabel Munoz*
Jaheim Hill *Kathleen Rodriguez Lazo*
Oliviana Lubinger *Justin Trujillo*

RICHMOND HIGH SCHOOL

Abraham Blanquel *Citlaly Solano*
Ashley Saechao

VISTA HIGH SCHOOL

Isela Moreno

WEST CONTRA COSTA ADULT EDUCATION

Abigail Hernandez

Named Scholarships and Recipients

Joanna Sykes/CalRTA Division #58 *Joanna Sykes* was a dedicated WCCUSD teacher for 40 years, mostly at Sheldon Elementary School where she happily taught kindergarten. An inspiring teacher beloved by students and parents, Joanna brought the joy and love for learning directly into the classroom and continues her support with a memorial scholarship. **Division #58** of the California Retired Teachers Association is over 400 members strong and supports scholarships with numerous fundraising activities throughout the year. (*Abigail Hernandez, West Contra Costa Adult Education*)

WCCRE Scholarship Fund Founders honors the legacy of the nine founders Mary McVittie, Ruth Kibby, Emily DiMartino, Joyce Chow, Robert Dycus, Diana McClelland, Gloria Mikuls, Rosemary Furlong, and Elmer McCormick for their foresight and dedication to the students of WCCUSD. They built upon the original vision of the fund, filing for incorporation and non-profit status in 2001, thereby allowing the fund to grow and flourish into its current formation. (*Kelly Ko, El Cerrito High School*)

David Calfee/Richmond Rotary Judge Calfee was raised in Richmond where he practiced law until he was elected Municipal Court judge in 1958. A 60-year member of the Richmond Rotary, his dedication to students is evidenced by his donation to the club with the request that it be used for scholarships. (*Kimberly Nguyen, Kennedy High School*)

El Cerrito High School Educators An anonymous donor has provided a 2022 scholarship to honor past, current, and future El Cerrito High School educators, as well as a second scholarship to be awarded to an ECHS graduating senior in 2023. (*Nathan Shum, El Cerrito High School*)

Clarissa Flores graduated from Richmond HS where she played badminton, basketball and volleyball. She studied American Sign Language at Berkeley City College so that she could work as an Instructional Assistant at Richmond High. She later found her passion in the culinary profession and after completing the Culinary Arts program at San Francisco City College she traveled the world to learn the cuisines of different cultures. Clarissa was a life long learner who used the skills of her professional careers to improve the lives of others. (*Citlaly Solano, Richmond High School*)

Scott Honey is a Pinole Valley graduate and former WCCRE scholarship recipient. He has provided a scholarship in appreciation of the kindness of teachers and staff members throughout his 20 years as a student in public education. Currently living in Hong Kong, this scholarship helps him stay connected to his hometown roots. (*Justin Trujillo, Pinole Valley High School*)

Richmond High School Classes of 1945, 1946, 1947 In honor of their classmates, the reunion committee of 1945, 1946, and 1947, has generously donated the remaining class treasury, held over the many years by fellow graduate, and later Richmond High principal, Ron Kamb, to a scholarship for a graduating Richmond High senior. (*Abraham Blanquel, Richmond High School*)

James W. Kelly taught math for 40 years at Richmond High and has remembered the WCCRE Scholarship Fund with an annual contribution from his trust fund. (*Karla Alvarado Guevara, Kennedy High School*)

Mechanics Bank is Richmond's hometown bank and continues its community support by providing a scholarship for a graduating senior through the WCCRE scholarship fund. (*Isela Moreno, Vista High School*)

Linda Pereira was a life-long area resident and a member of the last class to graduate from Richmond Union High School before it was demolished and then rebuilt to the present structure. She dedicated her life to the students of WCCUSD through various jobs in the district. Her final position was maintaining athletic areas, making sure that RHS always had great fields. (*Ashley Saechao, Richmond High School*)

Marilyn Ponting was an avid supporter of public education, the RUSD and the WCCUSD. She was an active member of all the PTSA's at her children's schools and continued to support her daughter, Bev Morsony, in teaching at many district high schools, including Kennedy, De Anza, and Hercules. (*Hillary Khuu, Hercules High School*)

Patricia Rupley served the district for many years as a teacher, counselor, principal, and central office administrator. Her lasting legacy was her unyielding commitment to making the schools responsive to the ever-changing needs of the students. (*Alicia Hanvey, Kennedy High School*)