



APTOS
WATSONVILLE
SCOTTS VALLEY

Marketing and Communications Office
6500 Soquel Drive
Aptos, CA 95003
831.479.5744 (O)
831.479.5743 (F)
www.cabrillo.edu

Contact: Kristin Fabos, Director of Marketing and Communications
T: 831-479-6158
[krfabos \[at\] cabrillo.edu](mailto:krfabos@cabrillo.edu)

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Ow Family Cultivates the American Dream

129 High School Students Receive Scholarships to Attend Cabrillo College

APTOS, CA - For 23 years, George Ow, Jr. and his family have been providing American Dream Scholarships to local ethnic minority and disadvantaged high school seniors enrolling at Cabrillo College. Since 1989, the Ow Family has awarded over \$368,000 to 842 graduating high school students coming to Cabrillo. This year the Ow Family has awarded a \$500 scholarship per student to a total of 129 students, the highest number of scholarships ever awarded in one year. It is just one of the many ways that the Ow Family supports students and the mission of Cabrillo College.

George Ow knows the power of education firsthand. His parents emigrated from China, and after living in Monterey, they settled in Santa Cruz where they owned a family grocery store. Ow and his six brothers and sisters worked at the store. After graduating from high school in 1960, he received an A.A. degree from Monterey Peninsula College (younger siblings would attend the newly established Cabrillo College). He then went on to receive a B.A. degree in marketing from San Francisco State University and an M.B.A. from UCLA.

When his father, George Ow, Sr., died in 1970, Ow, the oldest child, took over management of the family's real estate business. Ow has continued his father's philosophy and legacy of contributing to the community. The Santa Cruz area has greatly benefited from the Ow family's contributions.

The American Dream, says George Ow, is "that you can come from humble beginnings and become anybody and anything that you work hard and smart enough at; and when you become...you shall assist others."

Three generations of the Ow Family and American Dream Scholarship recipients celebrated their achievements at American Dream Scholarship Ceremony. For students like Jisoo Rim, 18, who immigrated to the US four years ago, the scholarship will offset tuition and book expenses. At the ceremony, Rim heard a lot of laughs when she said, "My parents worry about me. They have their own lives, as I do. I don't want them to live as my ATM. So, I am really happy that I am now able to pay for my first semester of Cabrillo tuition on my own."



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“The Ows are leaders in building our community in so many different ways,” said Brian King, Cabrillo College president and superintendent. “The example George Ow has set for the community is truly inspiring.”

2012 American Dream Scholarship Recipients

Aptos High School:

Melisa Arias, Juan Cardenas, Leslie Chavez-Colimote, Marlena Lighthill, Silvia Meza-Sanchez, Brandon Nieto, Eun-Ji Park, Courtney Rogers-Arriaga, Phillip Rojas, Tabitha Worden

Costanoa High School:

Alejandro Diaz

Cypress High School:

Donovan Dettle , Tiana Tamayo

Harbor High School:

Armando Carrillo, Karina Cerqueda, Maria Del Toro Diaz, Marvin Escobar, Amanda Gambon, Monica Hernandez, Ricardo Hilario, Maria Jovel, Marcos Magana, Maribel Martinez , Jessica Olvera, Alexis Ortiz, Edith Reyes, Khadijha Rodriguez, Jennifer Rodriguez Cortez, Aaron Stewart, Jackie Yeung, Karen Zamora Guerrero

Oasis High School:

Elisabeth Wilson-Brown

Pajaro High School:

Jesus Aguilera, Mayra Alonzo, Edgar Ascencio, Monica Calderon, Francisco Cervantes-Arias, Elizabeth Contreras Ruiz, Cindy Fernandez, Yadira Grajeda, Marlene Hernandez, Yesenia Hernandez, Maria Jacobo, Fortunata Matias, Andrea Negrete-Rocha, Maria Ochoa, Anabel Ortiz, Wendi Perez, Luis Sedano

Renaissance High School:

Emerson Argueta, Ramon Fernandez, Noel Flores, Nathan Gomez, Jose Gonzalez, Adriana Hernandez Anaya, Leslie Lazaro, Fernando Lopez, Augusto Mercado, Uriel Nunez, Jorge Olvera, Nestor Orozco , Cindy Ortiz, Agustin Perez, Gabriela Rincon-Marin, Jesus Rosales, Maria Santos, Sandra Tarelo, Minerva Velasco

San Lorenzo High School:

Ruby Carrillo, Ryder Crist, Austin Davis-Hunter, Larry George, Kaitlyn Lotz, Taralyn McKay, Rachel Prucha, Justin Rosa, Brenda Veloz Diaz



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Santa Cruz High School:

Rodolfo Chavez Sixtos, Oscar Gaona, Damiana MacLennan, Michelle Miracle, Fanni Perez, Dayana Torres Martinez

Scotts Valley High School:

Michael Bobbit, Shanon Fischer, Edgar Pedraza, Casondra Valle

Soquel High School:

Cinthia Calles, Zoraida Garcia, Maya Louis-Bradshaw, Lladira Marquez , Gabriela Ortega, Elizabeth Rangel, Jisoo Rim, Oscar Rocha, Nha Tran, Kiara Villalobos Barreno

SoS Program:

Yadira Castaneda, Jose Renteria, Allysan Sanchez, Josue Vargas, Jesus Vasquez

Watsonville High School:

Damaris Arciga, Cecilia Arevalo, Benjamin Benavidez, Perla Berumen, Zaira Calvillo, Stephanie Chavez, Itsel Contreras-Cuellar, Rocelia Cruz, Bernice Espindola Ramirez, Lizeth Garcia, Jaqueline Gomez, Maria Gonzalez, Yoni Hernandez, Esperanza Jaramillo, Erendira Lopez, Javier Martinez , Danielle Medina, Saul Medrano, Chantelle Mendoza, Mayra Montejano, Nelida Morua , Dalia Olmos Espindola, Monique Orejel, Lizbeth Ortiz, Martha Rivera, Leticia Torres, Nancy Vasquez

About The Cabrillo College Foundation

The Cabrillo College Foundation is a nonprofit organization established in 1962 to raise private donations for the support of Cabrillo programs. Private support is used for student scholarships, research and educational programs, faculty and departmental support, facilities, and equipment. Of the 1,400 community colleges in the nation, the Cabrillo College Foundation ranks among the top 2%. The generosity of Cabrillo College supporters has resulted in top state and national rankings in an annual study of college donors conducted by the Council for Aid to Education (CAE), a subsidiary of RAND Corporation. Local citizens, college staff, faculty and Cabrillo trustees serve on the 34-member foundation board, representing all geographic areas. Over the last ten years, the foundation has raised over \$32 million for college initiatives. Donations for the 2011-12 academic year were \$3.4 million. The foundation has helped to build an endowment of over \$16 million. A recent survey completed by the Network of California Community Colleges ranked Cabrillo College's endowment as the sixth largest statewide.

About Cabrillo College

Cabrillo College is a leading California community college serving Santa Cruz County with locations in Aptos, Scotts Valley and Watsonville. It is ranked #1 in transfers to UC Santa Cruz. Founded in 1959, the college offers over 100 academic and career technical education programs that serve multiple educational goals such as A.A. and A.S. degrees, certificates of achievement, skills certificates, transfer to 4-year institutions or for lifelong learning and personal enrichment. Cabrillo College is a dynamic, diverse and responsive educational community that is dedicated to helping all students achieve their academic, career, and personal development goals.

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