APTOS, CA - For 24 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 $426,000 to 977 graduating high school students coming to Cabrillo. This year the Ow Family has awarded a $500 scholarship per student to a total of 135 students, the highest number of scholarships ever awarded in one year. It is just one of the many ways the Ow Family has supported students and the mission of Cabrillo College over the years.

George Ow, Jr. knows the power of education. 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). The then continued his education to receive a B.A. degree in marketing from San Francisco State University and an MBA from UCLA.

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

“The American Dream 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,” said George Ow, Jr.

“Hundreds of local youth have received financial support and a psychological boost to succeed in college through the American Dream Scholarships,” said Melinda Silverstein, Cabrillo College Foundation Executive Director. “The generosity George Ow, Jr. and his family have provided to our community is truly inspiring.”
The American Dream Scholarship Ceremony and American Dream Scholarship recipients will be recognized for their achievements at Cabrillo College’s Aptos Campus on Tuesday, May 28 from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. in the Sesnon House gardens.

**This year’s American Dream Scholarship recipients include:**

From Aptos High School:

From Costanoa High School:
Alanis Vienola

From Cypress Charter High School:
Jessica Sanders

From Delta Charter High School:
Edgar Castillo and Keenan Conway

From Freedom Community High School:
Priscilla Esparza

From Harbor High School:
Jason Aban, Jillian Aban, Maria Avalos-Romero, Yuqi Chen, Maria Flores, William Galvan, Melissa Garcia, Erick Gonzalez, Ana Gonzalez-Torres, Qinglan He, Wenjin Hu, Dima Loutfi, Edwin Puga, Vincente Serna-Estrada, Patrice Williams, Ying Hua Wu

From OASIS Independent School:
Nandi Nivens

From Pajaro Valley High School:

From Renaissance High School:
Duice Arguello, Brian Calamateo, Martin Contreras, Sandy Cruz, Sergio Diaz, Jesse Diego, Jonathan Fernandez, Crystal Gomez, Saul Martinez, Nancy Martinez-Rocha, Erik
Melchor, Andrea Mendoza, Rosalina Olvera Rios, Eduardo Rocha, Aaron Romero, Sandy Vera

From Santa Cruz High School:
Jesse Bridges, Leslie Calixto-Lomeli, Jessica Carrera-Lopez, Samantha Gervacio, Cy'rae Hatfield, Edgard Martinez, Olivia Owens, Geremy Sabado

From Santa Cruz County Office of Education:

From Scotts Valley High School:
Kelcey Correa and Mariana Rodriguez

From Soquel High School:
Omar Marquez, Omar Martinez, David Salinas. Osbaldo Zambrano

From YES School:
Precious Steeves and Zachary Henry

From Watsonville High School:

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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