



Los Alamos Public Schools
FOUNDATION

2021

Los Alamos Public
Schools Foundation
Scholarships



ABOUT OUR SCHOLARSHIPS

Los Alamos Public Schools Foundation awarded scholarships to eleven graduating students who have demonstrated service contributions to the students and community of the Los Alamos Public Schools. As part of the award, each student names an ***Educator of Distinction***, someone who has had a positive impact on the student during their time in Los Alamos Public Schools.

One student is also presented with the Rynd Award. The award is made possible by a large bequest left to the LAPS Foundation by Ed and Betty Rynd, a couple with a passion for community service and our schools.

LAPS Foundation also administers several memorial scholarships each year.



VICTORIA NISOLI WINNER OF RYND AWARD



College: University of New Mexico
Major: Mechanical Engineering

Educator of Distinction

Whitney Pomeroy

"I'm so grateful to have had a teacher who spurred me to learn and enjoy it . . . for the first time, I felt a true drive to learn, one that placed little emphasis on grades and more on the process of my work. Ms. Pomeroy sparked my interest in English literature and made me the avid writer I am today."



LOGAN BLACK



Educator of Distinction

Dana Kline and Katie Nelson

“Both of these teachers have helped shape me into the person I am today . . . throughout elementary school I struggled in school, because I had a hard time reading and both of these teachers helped me both academically and personally. I don’t believe I would have gotten on the same path of being an English and History oriented student without their guidance.”

College: St. Cloud State University
Major: Secondary Education



FILIPPO DELZANNO

Educator of Distinction

Mike Montano

“By challenging me to think critically about the world around me and question my own opinions, Mr. Montano encourages me to become a more well-rounded student, who is ready to step into the world and make a lasting impact . . . Mr. Montano teaches me that, above all, we must spread the truth and learn from each other to take the first steps towards a more just and equal society.”

College: University of California Santa Barbara
Major: Physics



JAXSON MARTINES

Educator of Distinction

Kristen Martines

“I was fortunate enough [in third grade] to be in her classroom everyday for reading and writing lessons. Through the years, I have been able to witness first-hand her dedication, hard work, understanding, and compassion for her students. My mom’s compassion and knowledge helped her students gain confidence in their own abilities, allowing them to soar in the learning process. After nearly 18 years in the profession, I still see her working hard at home on lesson plans, grading papers and communicating with parents who have children in her class. I have used these qualities to build a foundation on becoming a better student, classmate, and person.”

College: Texas A & M University, Corpus Christi
Major: Business and Sports Management



ISABELLA MARTINEZ-PRUET

Educator of Distinction

Catherine Puranananda

“Out of all my years of school she was the one teacher I really connected with. Not only is she the funniest teacher I know, but she also makes an effort to really understand her students. She notices the small things . . . she saw me not as just a student who’s there to work and be graded, but as a human being who struggles sometimes and who has feelings. She also has a passion for community service and motivated me to work even harder to help people.”

College: University of North Texas
Major: Biochemistry



CHRISTINE MATHEW



Educator of Distinction

Debbie Grothaus

“Mrs. Grothaus instilled within me a love for science that I will take further in my future educational pursuits. Most importantly, Mrs. Grothaus has taught me to never be discouraged or ashamed of struggling but to take pride in committing myself to my work, especially when it is difficult. This has been a lesson that I have applied to every difficulty I have come through, in and outside the classroom, and that I will always value and share with others.”

College: Texas A & M University, Blinn College
Major: Nuclear Engineering



WILLIAM MCTEIGUE



College: Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Major: Biology

Educator of Distinction

Carter Payne

“Mr. Payne wants students to be involved and feel valued in our community. His readiness to work with Student Council to implement our ideas motivates me to plan extensively for student body activities. I have been shown an example of how to build up my community as a leader with fairness, encouragement and an assuring sense of calm like Principal Carter Payne.”



AUDREY NOLEN

Educator of Distinction

Carol Hermes

“Ms. Hermes will always stand in my mind as what every teacher should strive to be. She was a constant source of support, jokes and passion for what she did. She made all of us students feel like her own kids . . . She helped me feel normal about my love of school, learning, and other nerdy things. Ms. Hermes encouraged me to use my powerful personality to encourage others and change the world. I hope that I’m making her proud.”



College: Baylor University
Major: Sociology/Pre-law



RACHEL RIVERA

Educator of Distinction



Annette Sehorn

"Since taking Mrs. Sehorn's class I have become much more confident in myself and my reading abilities. That confidence has pushed me to take much harder classes that I might not have if I hadn't gained confidence in my abilities as a student . . . To this day I am very grateful for Mrs. Sehorn, her class and Mountain School for having a program like this that I could benefit from. Without Mrs. Sehorn's class I do not believe I would be at the place I am today and as I prepare to attend college I can't help but reflect on that experience and how truly grateful I am that I had someone to help me overcome that hurdle."

College: University of Washington
Major: Anthropology



ISAAC ROMERO



Educator of Distinction

Don Davis

“Mr. Davis is not only an exceptional teacher, but also one that I consider to be a friend . . . He encouraged me to pursue a college education and helped me choose courses to explore my interests. Part of my inspiration to pursue a STEM related career is owed to him. During my time in his classes, I learned about programs such as CAD and technological information that I can continue to use the rest of my life.”

College: University of New Mexico
Major: Biochemistry



ANDREW WEST



Educator of Distinction

Christine Engelbrecht

“My honors and AP Lang classes with Ms. E. were without a doubt the classes I had to work the hardest in, but also without a doubt the most rewarding. I feel prepared to tackle any writing assignment and ready to make a strong rhetorical argument about any subject. I’m extremely grateful for the time and effort Ms. Engelbrecht put into making each and every one of her students (including me) more capable writers, readers, and people.”

College: Yale University



CARSON CANNON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship was awarded in memory of Carson Cannon, a Los Alamos High School student who passed away in December 2019. The son of Reed and Heidi Cannon, Carson would have graduated in 2021. The \$3100 scholarship was organized by family friend, Shari Mills, and awarded to a graduating senior majoring in art.

Kari Mason

College: Brigham Young University
Major: Visual Arts



SOPHIA FELDMAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

THIS SCHOLARSHIP IS AWARDED IN THE MEMORY OF SOPHIA FELDMAN, AN LAHS SOPHOMORE WHO PASSED AWAY IN SEPTEMBER 2019. SOPHIA HAD MANY INTERESTS, INCLUDING DANCE, MUSIC, AND SPEECH/DEBATE, BUT ONE OF HER GREATEST PASSIONS WAS HELPING AND SUPPORTING PEOPLE. IN HER HONOR, THIS AWARD IS FOR THE HONOREE'S EXEMPLARY ACADEMIC AND PERSONAL CONDUCT COMBINED WITH MENTORING/SUPPORT OF YOUNGER STUDENTS, INCLUDING SOPHIA HERSELF.



Kari Mason

College: Brigham Young University
Major: Visual Arts

Nalani Varela



College: New Mexico State University
Major: Psychology and Business Marketing

LARRY BACA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



Hannah Gartz

College: Brigham Young University

Major: Neuroscience

The scholarship is named for Larry Baca, a renowned coach in Los Alamos for 30 years and member of the Los Alamos High School Hall of Fame and New Mexico Coaches Hall of Fame. He was a tremendous athlete at LAHS participating in baseball, basketball, wrestling, football and track. A role model to youth in our community, Baca's humility, determination and sportsmanship enabled his track teams to achieve numerous district and state track titles.



Rafael Sanchez

College: University of New Mexico

Major: Biology

JIM SIMS ENGINEERING MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The scholarship was created to honor long time Los Alamos resident and LANL engineer Jim Sims. Sims worked for 34 years at Los Alamos National Laboratory as a design engineer and leader of project engineering teams. Sims was a gifted Mechanical Engineer with a distinguished career. He was essential to the success of highly visible programs that have enhanced the scientific and engineering reputation of the Laboratory. Sims was also committed to mentoring young engineers, designers, and students, generously sharing his knowledge and experience.

Konstantin Nelson



College: Texas A & M University
Major: Engineering



JUNE ETTINGER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Friends of the Los Alamos County Libraries, in partnership with the Los Alamos Public Schools Foundation, have awarded the 2020 June Ettinger Memorial Scholarship to Shena Han for her review of the book *The Sun Does Shine: How I Found Life and Freedom on Death Row* by Anthony Ray Hinton.

The scholarship was created to honor those who love books. Applicants were asked to write a personal narrative concerning an age-appropriate book that was not required for school and that has not been translated into a visual medium. The narrative had to demonstrate in what ways the book added to the student's understanding of the human condition or had enhanced their life.

Shena Han

College: Dartmouth College

Major: Comparative Literature and Government



IRENE BOONE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

THE SCHOLARSHIP IS AWARDED TO STUDENTS PURSUING A TWO OR FOUR-YEAR DEGREE AT A COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OR TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL PROGRAM. IT IS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE GENEROSITY OF LONG-TIME RESIDENT AND PEDIATRICIAN, DR. IRENE BOONE AND HER HUSBAND, ZANAS "SLIM" BOONE.



**William
McTeigue**
College:
Massachusetts
Institute of
Technology
Major: Biology

Jayden Harvey
College: New Mexico
Institute of Mining and
Technology
Major: Architecture and
Civil Engineering

