

2022 Scholarships



ABOUT OUR SCHOLARSHIPS

Los Alamos Public Schools Foundation awarded scholarships to ten 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. This year LAPS Foundation also created a new scholarship for students planning on a career technical path.

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.



Congratulations
Hilltoppers!



College: Columbia University
Major: Foreign Affairs

Elizabeth Frost

Winner of Rynd Award

Educator of Distinction

Margo Batha

"Within the past few years our team has simultaneously faced its share of external challenges. When a teammate unexpectedly passed away, a hole was created on our team that could never truly be filled. Covid and the pandemic as a whole has tested our ability to meet and work with one another, and even compete. Still, Speech and Debate is as strong as ever, a testament to Ms. Batha [and] the Regina Brett quote she so often mentions: 'No matter how I feel, I get up, dress up, and show up for life.' Ms. Batha has always, and continues to, show up for both me and the rest of the team, a gesture I am forever grateful for."



College: New Mexico State University
Major: Mechanical Engineering

Ryan Aldaz

Educator of Distinction

Andrea Determan

“Going to LAPS from K-12th grade I had the opportunity to experience many great teachers that taught me a lot, but one changed my life. Ms. Determan, my 3rd-grade teacher, made an everlasting impact on my life by teaching me lifelong lessons that I will carry with me forever. . . Every day, I try to formulate the things that Ms. Determan has demonstrated and taught me. I can truly say that she is a big inspiration in my life and was not only a great teacher but a great role model as well!”



College: University of New Mexico
Major: Undecided

Elise Chavez

Educator of Distinction

Jonathan Guise

“He has taught me the importance of passion and hard work. This has really taught me how to set goals in school and work hard to achieve these goals. I have been able to challenge myself and keep pushing myself because of [him]. . . Mr. Guise knows how to keep everyone’s energy up and get them excited about dance. He helped me find my love for dance and now I want to share that love with others. He is a kind, funny, and inspiring mentor.”



Aleena Fullop

Educator of Distinction

Brian Gauck

"I admire him for his commitment to his students and to our country, and I am inspired by his grit and determination to achieve the high goals he sets for himself. He made my NJROTC class fun and engaging, and I immediately made a connection with him due to his focus on excellence, and his ability to balance "tough love" with encouragement and understanding. . . Because of his example, I aspire to be all that he stands for—treating everyone with kindness and respect regardless of rank or gender, prioritizing community service, and finding balance between career and family life."

College: Texas A&M University
Major: Genetics



College: Montana State University
Major: Biological Engineering

Kyle Hatler

Educator of Distinction

Scott Pomeroy

"I had no idea that my overly talkative, somewhat crazy teacher would later become an incredible mentor and support to me. . . Mr. Pomeroy has shown me that no matter how smart the kid, how good the grades, or bad the situation they are in, if they have a drive and a good work ethic they can accomplish great things. . . He cares more about making sure kids can have a great future and a fun job than making sure they get perfect grades."



College: University of California, Santa Barbara
Major: Biochemistry and molecular biology

Nina Johnson

Educator of Distinction

Melissa Goldman

"I will forever appreciate the time and effort Ms. Goldman puts into each of her students individually and the unconditional support she offers. I believe her work with me has contributed to a lot of my success at Los Alamos High School."



College: University of New Mexico
Major: Nursing

Christina Nisoli

Educator of Distinction

Eric Beckstead

“He made me feel like I was special and not a burden for being so talkative. . . He taught me to be a better person, and I aspire to be as understanding and helpful as he was. He changed my life in more ways than one: not only did my English improve that year, but my confidence in myself and my worth did too.”

Westley Parker

Educator of Distinction

Mick Matuszak

“Over the past three years, Mick has had a huge impact on my life. First of all, my time in his [Sports Medicine and Medical Terminology] class was always the best part of my day. He taught in an engaging way and it really helped spark my interest in the subject. The class that he taught confirmed my decision to pursue medicine. . . I have always felt comfortable going and talking to Mick about any parts of life, whether it be school, sports, or future plans. He often gives me advice and tells me about when he was my age. He always has a lot of good things to say. . . Overall, Mick has been one of the greatest influences throughout my high school career. He matched my learning style and helped me to excel academically. Even more, he expressed genuine care and concern for me as a person and lifelong friend.”



College: Brigham Young University
Major: Physical Therapy

Camille Romero

Educator of Distinction

Margo Batha

“This caringness from a teacher helped me to realize how much teachers go above and beyond their ‘paid’ responsibilities, just to make sure their students are okay and meeting their basic necessities. I honestly do not think I would have come this far with college preparation, and scholarship applications, if it wasn’t for having a support system from this teacher, and her letting me know that I am doing a good job, given my situation. Even just hearing the words, ‘I’m proud of you kiddo’ helped me to build up the motivation to make it through this school year. Mrs. Batha has helped to make my senior year more enjoyable and helped me to feel like I can accomplish anything including college despite my family’s financial hardship.”



College: Fort Lewis College
Major: Business Marketing



College: Montana State University
Major: Exercise Science

Ty Swavely

Educator of Distinction

Mick Matuszak

“Through all four years of high school, teacher and athletic trainer Mick Matuszak has been there for me. From helping me with academics and sports, to helping me with life and motivation, he has always been supportive. He is always positive, kind, and honest with students. . . Mr. Matuszak treats his students as individuals, making sure they are on the right track to succeed in his difficult classes. . . Mr. Matuzak has influenced me to continue my education studying Kinesiology in college. He is always willing to help and keep students positive when they are facing adversity from injuries and I cannot thank him enough for teaching at LAHS.”

Matthew Campbell

Educator of Distinction

Scott Pomeroy

"He has taught me a lot, helping me explore various options at Los Alamos High and options for me after I graduate. He is a really supportive mentor. Mr. Pomeroy will talk to his students about real life issues in ways that other teachers don't. He can relate to high school kids in a way that makes us all look forward to going to his class. He is genuinely a role model. . . he has made a lasting difference in my life by encouraging me to chase my dreams, get out of my comfort zone and work hard for the things that are important to me."



Career Technical Path: Welding

Larry Baca Memorial Scholarship

Ryan Aldaz



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.

Jim Sims Memorial Engineering Scholarship

Wayne Williams



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.



Olivia Bell

Sophia Feldman Memorial Scholarship



Elise Chavez
Jason Pieck
Isabella Manzanares



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.

June Ettinger Memorial Scholarship

Kate Whitley



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.

Kristin Kosiewicz Annual Memorial Scholarship



The Kristin Kosiewicz Scholarship is awarded annually in memory of Kristin Kosiewicz, a 1993 graduate of Los Alamos High School who passed away on September 26, 2021 from an accidental fentanyl overdose. Kristin was an exceptional athlete, a talented artist, and a confident and adventurous world traveler. Kristin enjoyed all things nature and loved to explore the outdoors. This scholarship is awarded annually to a graduating LAHS senior to increase awareness of substance abuse.

Camille Romero
Brianna Nieto

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.



Camille Romero



Aliana Montoya