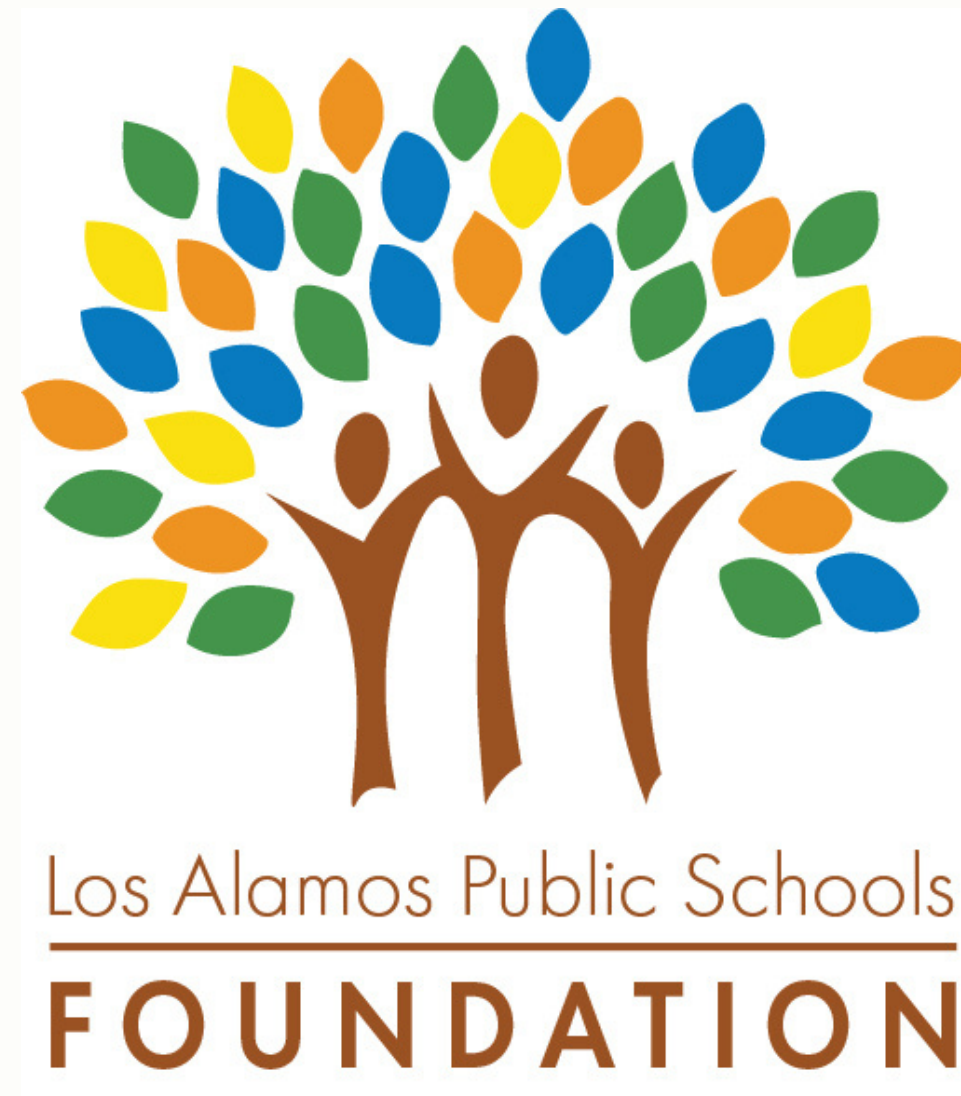


Scholarships



Class of 2023

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. This year LAPS Foundation awarded two scholarships 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: Political Science and Human Rights

Yunseo Kim

Winner of Rynd Award

Educator of Distinction

Margo Batha

"Throughout the ups and downs of my high school journey, Mrs. Batha has also been there for me as a support system. From celebrating my 8th place achievement at the National Speech and Debate Tournament in 2022 to navigating the heartache of losing my close friend and fellow Hilltalker, Sophia Feldman, Mrs. Batha has stood by me every step of the way, and I am deeply grateful to have her in my life. Mrs. Batha is an exceptional educator and a true inspiration. She has helped me chase my dreams and has encouraged me to strive for excellence in all that I do."



Mikaela Brown

Educator of Distinction

Tacarra Lake

"Ms. Lake used books as tools to widen my perspective and explore other cultures. Through literature, She taught me to look beyond the surface to find the true meaning disguised in life. Her class was thought provoking and challenged me to think critically. . . Ms. Lake not only taught me English, but a lot about life. She has inspired me to examine the world beyond myself and expand my horizons. With her teachings in mind, I feel prepared for the future. I truly admire her work ethic and the devotion she has as an educator. I hope to someday make a difference in the world like Ms. Lake has made in mine."

College: Utah State University

Major: Human Development/Family Studies



College: New Mexico Tech
Major: Chemical Engineering



Madelyn Crotzer

Educator of Distinction

Whitney Pomeroy

"I took Ms. Pomeroy's Honors English 10 class when school was completely remote. During a time when I felt school was unengaging and depressing, I looked forward to Ms. Pomeroy's class. Somehow, Ms. Pomeroy made her class engaging and energizing by adapting lessons and projects to an online format that retained the quality of in-person learning and kept her students involved in the class. Incredibly mindful of students' stress levels, Ms. Pomeroy outlined clear expectations for her class and was deliberate in the materials and assignments she posted to Google Class, so as not to overwhelm students. Her English class was a refuge of sanity during a chronically stressful time."



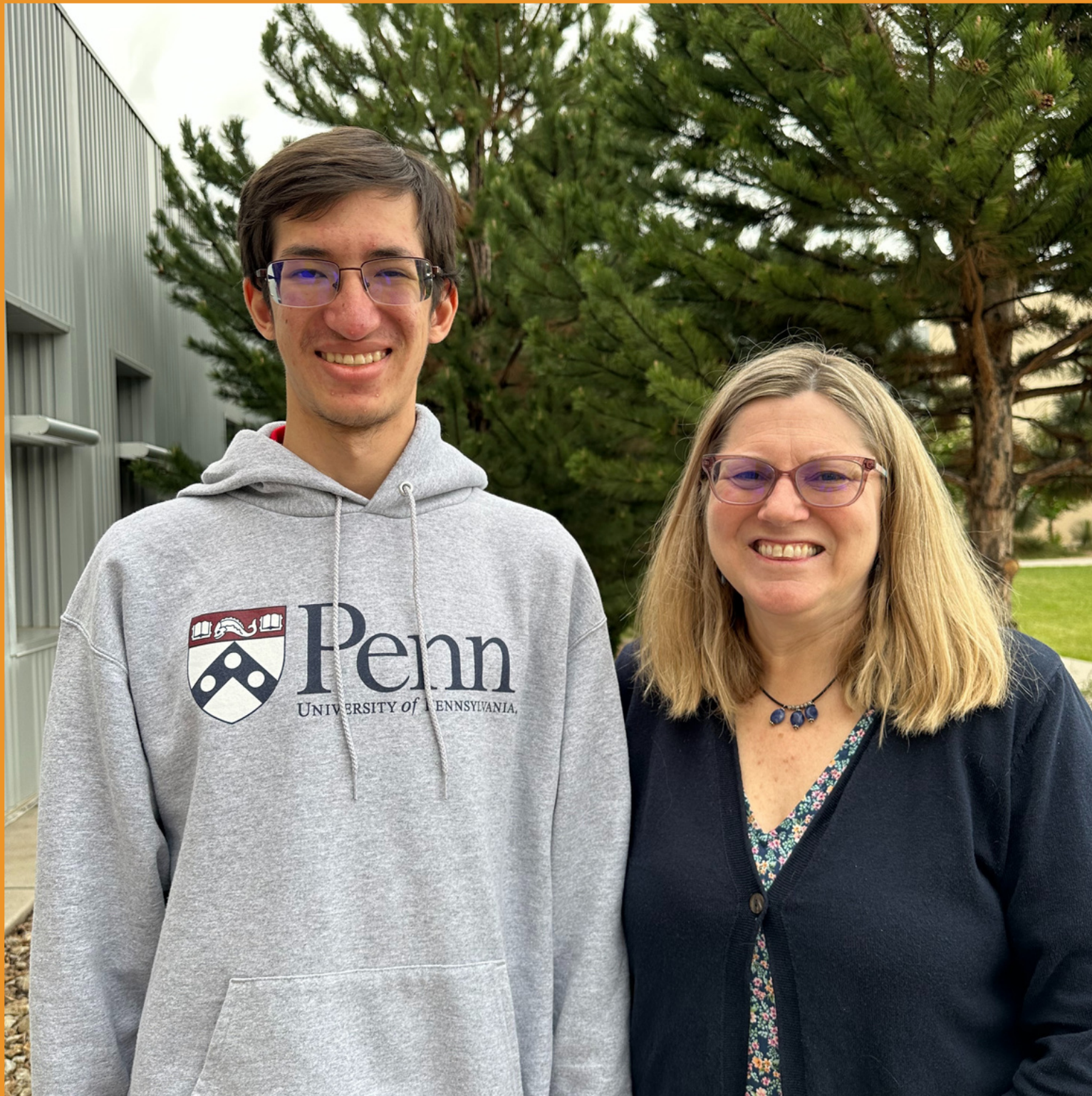
College: University of New Mexico
Major: Psychology

Adeline Feng

Educator of Distinction

Christine Engelbrecht

"Ms. Engelbrecht taught me the importance of writing. She taught me that it doesn't matter how amazing your ideas are, if you can't properly articulate your thoughts, it doesn't matter. She taught me the importance of knowing your target audience, the exigency, and the purpose to get a point across. All of my English teachers in the past primarily focused on grammar rules we had been learning since elementary school. Ms. E showed me the importance of being a good writer and how to be one. . . She forced us to have a growth mindset, and my writing got better because of that mindset. It wasn't only my writing that improved, my entire life improved after she helped me switch to a growth mindset. I wasn't afraid of getting criticism which meant I took advice on how to be a better leader. I was more willing to listen to how I could improve in my various activities. I generally became a better person and friend."



College: University of Pennsylvania
Majors: Chemistry, Materials Science, Engineering

Quinton Geller

Educator of Distinction

Louise Foliot

“While the math and science courses that I’ve previously tended to prioritize have taught me the ways of the universe, Madame Foliot’s classes have taught me the way of the world. By learning how to assume different perspectives and discovering the vast interconnectedness of human communities around the globe, I learned perhaps the most important lesson of my high school career: my own place in society.”



College: Claremont McKenna College
Majors: Economics and Political Science

Violet Henderson

Educator of Distinction

Zeynep Unal

"In her class, I learned how I personally best learn, focus, and think. I felt like my mind could explore wherever it wanted and I had the opportunity to feel completely fulfilled academically. Additionally, the realization that I was capable of excelling in any topic that I am interested in is a profound gift she gave me. I could tell that she cared about me; I improved not only in academics but as a whole person. She treated us like mature and free-thinking people. Ms. Unal has truly affected the course of my life."



College: University of New Mexico
Major: Business

Isabella McTeigue

Educator of Distinction

Eva Abeyta

"My most influential teacher has been Ms. Abeyta. She was my eighth-grade science teacher and my mentor in the Science and Engineering Fair. Ms. Abeyta taught scientific concepts through exciting, interactive labs. The more I learned from her, the more inspired I became by her intelligence as a female in STEM. Over the next four years, I would see Ms. Abeyta around town. She would greet me with a hug and show interest in me by asking about classes and life in high school."

Elise Ovaska

Educator of Distinction

Mary Grace

"Ms. Grace is probably the most hard-working, kind, compassionate, caring, understanding, and loving teacher I've ever had. She understands the importance of creativity even outside of her classroom and medium. It has been wonderful to work with her in all the creative spaces at the school. Ms. Grace has pushed me to work outside of my comfort zone and continue to experiment with different mediums and styles. She has helped to cultivate my love of art so much so that I plan on studying art and animation in college. I couldn't possibly put all my gratitude into one essay but Ms. Grace is truly the best teacher ever."



College: Arizona State University
Major: Art

Yeanwoo Park

Educator of Distinction

Lynn Ovaska

“Ms. O's teaching placed meaning behind every event and concept. Historical figures felt like old friends, and revolutions as close as last Thursday night. When the curriculum ended at the 21st century, I began to realize how I fit into the course of history. For once, I had a clear image of who I wanted to strive to be. . .Thank you, Ms. O. You have taught me an enthusiasm for education I had never known.”



College: Johns Hopkins University
Major: Physics



College: New Mexico State University
Major: Agriculture Communications

Kimberly Prada

Educator of Distinction

Lindsey Montoya

“Mrs. Montoya has shown me that my fitness and health journey isn’t always going to be easy, but it will always be worth the work you put in. I have learned that you always have to give yourself a chance to recover in order to reach your goals. My educator of distinction is someone who I've looked up to for many years, and someone who I am incredibly grateful for. I appreciate all she does for me and everything she’s taught me, not only as a runner, but also as a young woman.”

Ming-Yuan Lo

Educator of Distinction

Suzy Kroesche

"My elementary school GATE teacher, Suzy Kroesche, is my Educator of Distinction. Through my seven years at Aspen Elementary, the GATE program with her has had a major influence on who I am today. From solving logic puzzles to writing silly Shakespearean sonnets to assembling a medieval-age sailor's journal, Ms. Kroesche's classroom embodied learning through curiosity and joy. . . But one of the most important lessons I learned from Ms. Kroesche was to be myself--to embrace "nerdiness" and be uniquely eccentric. Ms. Kroesche's tacky spirit wear, booming yet friendly voice, and constant smile never failed to light up my (and other kids') days. While I often felt misplaced, suffocated, and bored in my normal classes, GATE swung open with encouragement and freedom."



College: UCLA

Major: Mechanical Engineering

Julian Baros

Educator of Distinction

Scott Pomeroy

"When I think about the last four years at Los Alamos High School, and all the fun interesting and stressful classes I endured; I know, without a doubt, that my favorite class is and always will be Auto Mechanics with Mr. Pomeroy. Mr. Pomeroy is the most charismatic, wild, entertaining, and enthusiastic teacher I have ever had. I feel his characteristics are all extremely important for any teacher to have, if they want to have a lasting impact on students like Mr. Pomeroy has had on me. It was Mr. Pomeroy who helped me decide what I want to do with my life after high school. I took his class wanting to learn more about auto mechanics, however I learned about more than just auto mechanics. Mr. Pomeroy changed my perspective on education and the career path I thought would be best for me."



College: Central New Mexico Community College
Major: Welding

**Chantel
Bibeault**

College: New Mexico State University
Major: Radiology

Educator of Distinction

Audrey Juliani

"I first was accepted into Los Alamos Public Schools in the 5th grade. I went to Barranca Mesa Elementary School and quickly realized how far behind I was. The school I went to down the hill was not the best for me and 5th grade was my catch up year. It felt like as soon as I learned something we were already moving on. It all changed for me my 6th grade year. I walked in the first day of school to my home room teacher, Mrs. Juliani. I didn't know what to expect or how much of an impact her class would have on me. She showed me how writing could be fun. I was never the best speller, and she knew this. She would correct my spelling, but in a way I could learn from my mistakes. Her daily questions would get me thinking about the world and what I could do to change the world to make it a better place. She influenced me to be nice to others and taught me hard work does pay off. . . I am forever thankful for what she has done for my education, as I don't know where I would be without her class."

Larry Baca Memorial Scholarship

Nyla Lee



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

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.



Rebeca Rocha



Carter Watkins

Sophia Feldman Memorial Scholarship



Yunseo Kim
Logan Perez
Pippa Fung



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. The award is selected based on exemplary academic and personal conduct combined with mentoring/support of younger students.

June and Harry Ettinger Memorial Scholarship

Maya Price



The Ettinger scholarship honors a graduating student who loves books. Applicants are 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 demonstrates the ways the book added to the student's understanding of the human condition or had enhanced their life.

Kristin Kosiewicz Substance Abuse Awareness Scholarship



The 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 one or two graduating LAHS seniors to increase awareness of substance abuse.

Norah Gartz
Logan Perez

Irene Boone Memorial Scholarship



Isabella McTeigue

The Boone 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.

Aria Mair

Ross and Lola Ramsey Memorial Scholarship



Elise Ovaska

This scholarship is in memory of Ross and Lola Ramsey who worked as a team to manage the Civic Auditorium, now the Duane Smith Auditorium, for over a quarter of a century. From 1951 to 1974, the Ramseys created and directed the renowned Olions theater program and helped students find and develop their potential as they acted in and produced plays, musicals and Topper Revue. A group of alumni students of the Ramseys organized an effort in 2022-23 to celebrate the Ramseys contributions, name the stage at Duane Smith Auditorium in memory of them and create a scholarship honoring them. This is the first year for the scholarship to be awarded.





