

COLUMBIA COLLEGE FOUNDATION

COLUMBIA COLLEGE



2019 Community Report



SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS

Re-Entry Student Finds Success



Kirstin Leventhal Foundation Scholarship Recipient

The chance for a job promotion initially drove Kirstin Leventhal to the Columbia College campus almost three years ago. She had worked for nearly 20 years in housekeeping at Hetch Hetchy headquarters in Moccasin, and was a valued employee. But without an associate's degree, she wasn't eligible even to apply for better jobs she

knew she could handle. So with the encouragement of her family and her boss, she enrolled.

"I hadn't been in school since I left Germany in my 20s, and here I was in my 40s," Kirstin says. "The first class I stepped into was English 156 with Meryl Soto. Ten minutes in, I didn't think I'd make it. The teacher kept talking about 'the syllabus.' I had no idea what that was." She stayed after class to get help, caught on quickly, and discovered the key to her success. "Show up and do all the work and you'll be fine. Meryl told me that, and she was absolutely right."

Juggling fulltime school, fulltime work and parenting two teenagers hasn't been easy. But with a fierce dedication to her goals, she has kept on pace through family illnesses, accidents and major financial struggles. She graduated in the spring as a straight A student, is now in the running for a manager's position at work and on track to transfer to Stanislaus State in the spring.

Kirstin said her children have been her biggest cheerleaders, and she gives a lot of credit to Columbia College instructors, student services and scholarships for helping her reach higher.

"I never thought I could afford it. I never thought it was possible," she said. "But now I just want that bachelors. With that, I can venture out and the sky's the limit."

"Show up and do all the work and you'll be fine. Meryl told me that, and she was absolutely right."

—Kirstin Leventhal

New Scholarship Honors Master Teacher

Ernie Miller Walker taught generations of Tuolumne County students and teachers in her three decades as an educator. She taught everything from a one-room school in Jupiter to inner city kids in Oakland and multiple grades at Twain Harte Elementary and other local schools. She was known for her ability to see the needs and potential of each child, meet their unique needs and inspire them to dream big. For fellow teachers, she was a valued mentor who worked for many years as a master teacher with Fresno State University's Cal State Teach program. So for her daughter Samantha Heubner, it was a natural step to establish a lasting tribute at Columbia College with a scholarship for future teachers – and to do that while her mom could enjoy the process. "Her dedication to teaching was inspiring, and I wanted something that honored the mark she left in this community," Heubner said. "You remember your good teachers, and so many people remember her."

Heubner, who manages the dorms at Columbia College, worked with the Columbia College Foundation at the end of the year to establish the Ernestine Miller Future Educators Scholarship with a \$10,000 gift. She and her mom

were pleased to see the first \$500. award go to music student Michala Scholkowsky at the April Scholarship Celebration.

"That was such a special event, and my mom really enjoyed it," Heubner said. "The whole experience has been great."



Ernie Miller Walker (right) and her daughter Samantha Heubner (left) meet their first scholarship student, Michala Scholkowsky

Columbia College Promise expands its impact with second year



Claudia Loomis is the first person in her family to be headed for a college degree. A top student at Bret Harte High School, she intended to go straight to a four-year school. But finances were a big concern, and she wasn't ready to leave home just yet. Thanks to the Columbia College Promise, she's been able to keep her college costs down and live at home a little longer. She's now on track to graduate this spring with associate degrees in math and political science, and transfer to UCLA as a junior in the fall.

Counselor Kirsten Miller expects to see a big jump in the number of local teenagers like Claudia who will be spring graduates. Thanks to the Columbia College Promise, a Columbia College Foundation program which covers one full year of tuition and fees for local high school graduates, many more students will be completing degrees in two years.

"It's exciting," Miller said, noting that the typical time to graduate is much longer, and many students never get all the way to a degree. "They're taking full advantage of the program to reach their goals. It's made a real difference."

"It's exciting that (students) are taking full advantage of the program to reach their goals. It's made a real difference."

**—Kirsten Miller,
Columbia College Counselor**

Now in its second year, the Promise program already has served nearly 400 local high school graduates – and the Foundation this fall announced plans for an exciting expansion. Starting in Fall 2020, the Promise program will make it possible for every qualified local public high school graduate to attend Columbia College fulltime, tuition free, for two full years of consecutive semesters if they enroll immediately after graduation. The program service area will also expand to include high school graduates throughout the college service area which includes Oakdale and Waterford, and to Mariposa and Calaveras, both adjacent rural high school districts.

"Thanks to additional funding now available through the state's California Promise program, the Foundation is very pleased to move forward with this expansion," said Foundation President Colette Such. "We're incredibly grateful to our private donors who helped us launch and sustain the Columbia College Promise, and to the college for continuing to invest this new state funding in this exceptionally successful program."

Columbia College President Santanu Bandyopadhyay added his support. "We are confident that the Promise program will contribute greatly to the college's goal of building an educated work force. When the community and the college work together, great things happen."



From the Foundation President



Colette Such, CCF President

Outgoing Columbia College Foundation President Stephanie Suess captured it best three years ago when she said, “The stars were in alignment when this particular board came together. You’re capable of doing magnificent things.” This year, just as last year and the year before, this Board along with our generous donors have made extraordinary progress manifested by the gifts it provides our students.

I hope you’ve read about a generous million dollar endowment that launched the priceless gift of higher education for one year to all interested and willing high school graduates. We read and we listened and we compiled data. We debated and shifted when needed to better serve our students. We increased student contact with Counselors and Student Ambassadors. We added textbooks with the Hagstrom Promise Lending Library. The number of students taking advantage of the Promise exceeded expectations. But this is last year’s news.

There was always a gnawing concern in the quiet moments: *what about supporting our students through a second year?* Again, with the continued generosity of our donors, the trust of Columbia College leaders, funding from the State, the partnership with the Foundation and college staff and this extraordinary Board, we’ve grown our Promise to include two full years to all students who continue fulltime. And, we’ve expanded our Promise to include Calaveras and Mariposa, Oakdale and Waterford high schools.

Thanks again and always to our extraordinary group of donors and your humanity, grace, generosity, wisdom, and the belief in the miracle of education. Together, we are capable of magnificent things.

From the College President



Dr. Santanu Bandyopadhyay

Columbia College Foundation celebrated another excellent year, thanks to your generosity. Among many of the programs of the Foundation that benefit our students, the Columbia College Promise remains a shining star. This program is opening a window of opportunity to the local high school graduates. More than half of the graduating class of Summerville, Tioga and Sonora High Schools are attending Columbia College fulltime because of the Promise. Encouraged by the success of the program, the Foundation Board has expanded the scope of the scholarship to help more students for a longer period of college attendance. This would not have been possible without your support - THANK YOU!

Return on Investment in public education remains one of the highest to the taxpayer and the society. Yosemite Community College District has contributed \$760 million to the local economy in 2016-17, according to an economic study. For every dollar spent by the taxpayer, an amount of \$2.20 was returned in added taxes and public sector savings, ensuring a return rate of over 100%! Higher education remains one of the major factors that help address the income inequality by preparing a labor force for the future. Although the Columbia College Promise addresses the issue of tuition fees, there are many other unmet needs such as books, food insecurity and homelessness that continue to adversely impact our students. Your generous contribution to the Columbia College Foundation will help us address these unmet student needs. Thank you for your continued support of our students.

Promise Students on front cover: (L - R) Celia Freisen, Aneke Harris, Calista Fields-Richardson, Jenna Montgomery and Sydney Taylor

Vision Statement

The Columbia College Foundation promotes quality higher education that enriches the academic, economic, and cultural life of our community.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to promote student success by providing community resources that support and expand educational opportunities for Columbia College’s students.

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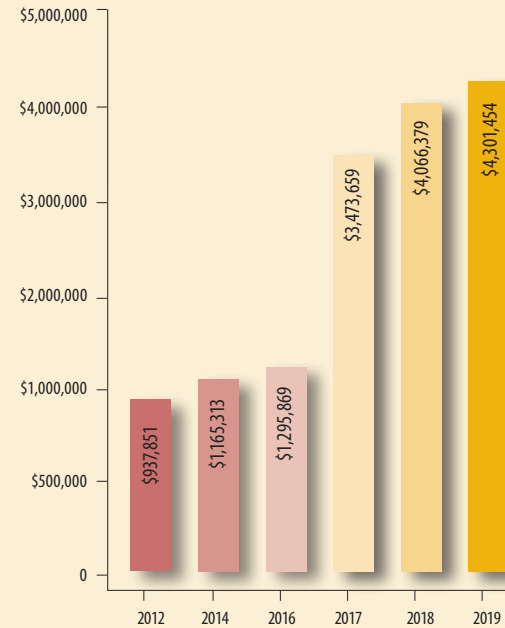
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Fiscal Report 2018-2019

THE COLUMBIA COLLEGE Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to raising supplemental funds to support student success and promote quality higher education in our community. Established by Dr. Harvey “Dusty” Rhodes in 1972, the Foundation today has an all-volunteer community board that works to raise the profile of the college and expand partnerships with organizations, businesses and individuals who believe in the value of high-quality, accessible public education.

Foundation income supports a variety of college programs and activities each year, and the Foundation oversees the financial management of more than \$4 million in assets. Assets consist of cash, investments and collections held in unrestricted funds, restricted funds and endowments. An annual audit of finances and record-keeping is conducted by a third-party auditor.

Growth in Total Assets 2012–2019



Sources Of Funds 2018-19

TOTAL CONTRIBUTED	\$394,392
Individuals/Organizations	\$175,480
Osher Scholarship Fund	\$23,100
Other: Federal endowment match	\$130,000
Columbia College match	\$65,812
INVESTMENT GAIN	\$262,072
TOTAL	\$656,464

Disbursements & Expenses 2018-19

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$276,893
Scholarships & Awards*	\$103,612*
Programs/Projects	\$107,469
Promise Program (fees/tuition)	\$65,812
OTHER EXPENSES	\$71,904
Investment fees	\$20,270
Administration/other	\$51,634
TOTAL	\$348,797

*Community groups awarded an additional \$15,450 to Columbia College scholarship applicants.

Honor Roll of Donors

Columbia College Foundation gifts received in Fiscal Year 2019

President’s Circle Diamond (\$10,000+)

Ernest Pozzi
Ernestine Miller Walker
Foundation for California Community Colleges
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President’s Circle Gold (\$5,000–\$9,999)

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Donor (\$100–\$499)

Dean and Kari Andal
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ALL GIFTS MADE to the Foundation have a direct impact on student success and are greatly appreciated, regardless of size. Donors can choose from a variety of projects and programs to suit their philanthropic interests. All donations are tax deductible to the greatest extent permitted by law. Giving options include:

- Columbia College Promise**—Support local high school graduates.
- Scholarships**—Support students directly through named and/or endowed scholarships.
- Program Support**—Support specific college programs, campus activities and student organizations.
- Unrestricted**—This fund allows the Foundation to provide direct support where it is needed most.



How to Give

Donations to the Columbia College Foundation may be made at any time online at our website: gocolumbia.edu/foundation

Donations by check may be made payable to the COLUMBIA COLLEGE FOUNDATION and sent to: 11600 Columbia College Dr. Sonora, CA 95370.

For more information and giving options, call 209.588.5065 or email Amy Nilson at nilsona@yosemite.edu.

Tax ID #23-7306390

Gerard Bakarizafy travelled half way around the world from his island home in Madagascar this fall, in part to spend some unforgettable time with Tuolumne County students. A chance connection with Columbia College instructors Erin Naegle and Lisa Murphy sparked the journey, and has turned into an unexpected partnership that continues to grow.



Gerard Bakarizafy

While here in Sonora, Bakarizafy, head of Ecotourism and Community Development for Madagascar's Lokobe National Park, spent three days with Sonora and Summerville High School students, spoke to Columbia College students, faculty and staff and met with community groups. Now teachers at the college and the local high schools led by Summerville High's Rachel Castanoglia are setting up "sister school" partnerships with the small

It's exciting to know that when we step up to opportunities that present themselves, we can each make a difference.
—Erin Naegle

high school near Lokobe using Google Classroom technology and two donated laptops.

It was all arranged by Erin and Lisa, who met Gerard while volunteering for a month at a conservation institute near the park during Erin's sabbatical. Both were intrigued and inspired by his efforts to involve his small community in the future of his country's new national park, which protects diverse and unique rainforest and coral reef habitat. They wanted to help.



When they learned that he had been invited to a three-week international conservation workshop based in Colorado, they got to work and helped pull together his whole visit – starting a Go Fund Me campaign to cover his travel, applying for grants, making personal and professional contacts in Monterey, Yosemite and the Bay Area, and more. A Columbia College Foundation mini grant was part of the package, along with support from the Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools office.

"This has been such an opportunity for collaboration with the high schools and the community," Erin said. "It's giving an opportunity for students on both sides of the globe to learn from each other and gain a deeper understanding and appreciation for the diversity of our planet."

Next, Erin and Lisa want to help Gerard set up a high school internship program for Madagascar teens who live near the park. Tuolumne County students and donors are stepping up to help.

"This was all serendipitous," Erin said. "It's exciting to know that when we step up to opportunities that present themselves, we can each make a difference."

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gofundme.com/f/hextse-skip-a-latte-save-a-lemur-or-skip-a-lager

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Student Gerald Cahill accepts congratulations from President Santanu Bandyopadhyay and YCCD Trustee Margie Bulkin.



Columbia College music students perform at the scholarship celebration.

Students and donors join with family, friends, faculty and staff for a joyful afternoon at the Columbia College Foundation's annual Scholarship and Awards Celebration, held each April. More than 100 Columbia College students received more than \$118,000 in scholarship support through the Foundation and more than 30 community partners.



Student of the Year Danae Palmer (right) shares a moment with Music Professor and Faculty Scholarship Chair Rod Harris and Foundation President Colette Such.



Sonora Lions Club members enjoy meeting their group of scholarship recipients.

Mini Grants

Dozens of students in Columbia College's new Outdoor Club just have to take a few steps to get to a world-class rock climbing site behind the science and math buildings. Now thanks to a Brady-Wise Mini Grant from the Columbia College Foundation, they have a set of colorful crash pads for the growing ranks of members. "This provides a great opportunity for our students to build meaningful interpersonal connections and get a little exercise and outdoor time," said Advisor and Math Instructor Joe Manlove. "The club climbs at least three or four days a week and they don't have to blow off their classes to do it." The grant was one of about two dozen awarded in the last year, supporting everything from team sports and science equipment to guest speakers and professional certifications.



Nursing student Margaret Glover practices bouldering moves on campus.