



*resilient!*



2021  
COMMUNITY REPORT  
SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS

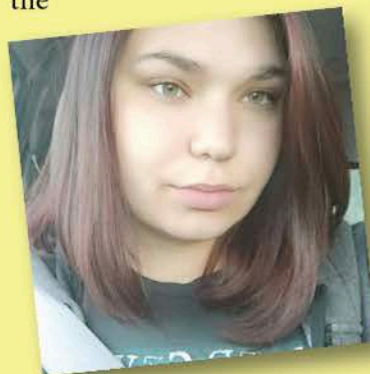
# Promise students appreciate extra support in challenging times

Having a baby last year changed everything for 21-year-old Alisah Bowman-Mcvey. An upcoming knee surgery threw a curve at allied health student Josh Hernandez. Losing both her father and her brother in the last few years have been tough blows for Dezalena Miner.

But each of these young Columbia College students and so many more have stayed on track with their college goals, thanks in part to the Columbia College Promise. Now in its fourth year offering tuition-free college to new high school graduates who enroll fulltime, the Promise program continues to strengthen support for new students by funding additional counseling, emergency grants, targeted scholarships and other extras. This summer, the Foundation offered a \$300 "Welcome Bonus" to hundreds of first and second-year Promise students when they enrolled fulltime for fall semester, and is repeating the offer for spring.

A Sonora High graduate, Alisah said the extra support means a lot as she navigates parenthood, a shift in career goals, and more. "It's having the peer group and my counselor, knowing where to go for help," she said. "It hasn't been easy, I won't lie...but I have support."

Josh, also a Sonora High grad, is struggling with health issues right now, and had to leave his job to have knee surgery. With a



Dezalena Miner

Foundation emergency grant, plus extra funds from the Promise program and financial aid, he can still help his family with his share of rent and bills while keeping his focus on fulltime classes this spring.

"I'm a much better student now than when I was in high school," he said, "so I really want to stay on track."

For Dezalena Miner, the Promise program offered an affordable way to overcome difficulties in high school. A Bret Harte High School graduate, she lost her grandfather, who was her adoptive father, just as she was turning 18, so she was on her own.

"To be honest, Columbia wasn't my first choice," she said. "I wanted to leave the area, but then I realized this was the best way for me to move forward – and that's what my dad always taught me."

**"I didn't feel pushed or pressured here," she said. "It's given me time to make a fresh start."**

Losing her brother last year was another set-back, but by then Columbia was her home base. Instructors and staff really cared about helping her explore career interests, build confidence and research the best choices for her next steps.

"I didn't feel pushed or pressured here," she said. "It's given me time to make a fresh start."

She has rebuilt her GPA and her confidence, and will graduate in spring with a degree in graphic design and a focus in child development. She hopes next to move to Utah and work in graphic design before moving on to a university to pursue art education.

"We are so inspired by our students' resilience," said Foundation President Jeff Warren, "and we are grateful to our donors who make it possible to give them encouragement and support."



## Columbia College Promise Contributors • Gifts received through November 1, 2021

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**THANK YOU!**

Scholarships at the Columbia College Foundation come in all sizes, shapes and backgrounds – and the stories are beautiful. Here are three profiles from our last year.

## Sherman Hay Scholarship

Stacy Hay had a clear goal in mind when she started an art scholarship at Columbia College in memory of her late husband, Sonora artist Sherman Hay.



“I’m hoping students will look at Sherman’s artwork, and be inspired by his creativity, use of imagination, dedication and hard work,” she said.

“Because Sherman was so focused

and committed to art making, we look for these qualities in the student applications,” she said. “Is the student passionate about art, trying to find their own artistic voice and showing diligence in what they are creating? We do this by reviewing the scholarship application including examples of their own artwork.”

Friends, family and fellow artists have helped grow the scholarship over the last four years with art show proceeds and personal contributions large and small. The Sherman Hay Art Scholarship as of this fall is now permanently endowed and will continue to grow and support art students at Columbia for decades to come.

“I’m so grateful,” Stacy said. “A lot of people in our community really need this kind of help. It will give them a head start.”

## Dean Cunningham Scholarship

Angie Taylor wanted a special way to honor her grandfather at Columbia College. He was the college’s second president, and served for many years before he retired in 1992 and went on to be the founding director for the Sonora Area Foundation. With his 90th birthday approaching, Angie last fall established the Dean Cunningham Scholarship, honoring students who have a commitment to community, and who are serious about education and making a difference through their career.

The perfect candidate received the first award:



Columbia student Derek Allison, a veteran, husband, and father working toward a medical career.

Derek said the scholarship was an important boost in a difficult year.

“Especially last semester, it kept me from having to drop any units to work more,” he said. “That had a great impact on my GPA, and that will impact what programs I can get into next. The importance of that can’t be overstated.”

“Derek’s success speaks volumes about what we can do when we give back,” Angie said. “To know it was received in the spirit it was given, that it’s making his life better, and that it honors my grandpa – that comes full circle and means more to us than words can say.”

## Future Educators Scholarship

Columbia’s Child Development Center hosts a delightful spring tradition – an annual tea party, where students invite family, friends and alumni to celebrate spring. Hosted by the program and its Future Educators Club, the benefit has raised money for student teacher expenses, as well as seed funding for a new scholarship. This fall, with a boost from a \$5,000 Columbia College Foundation mini grant, the Child Development and Future Educators Scholarship is now established with a \$10,000 starting balance that will grow for years to come.



Students and staff will continue to add tea party proceeds, and plan to award their first recipient in the spring semester.

“This is a dream come true for our program,” said Child Development professor Dr. Adrienne Seegers. “Our students have a lot of heart, and often face a lot of challenges. It feels so right to honor them with this support.”



## 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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## From the Foundation President



Jeff Warren, CCF President

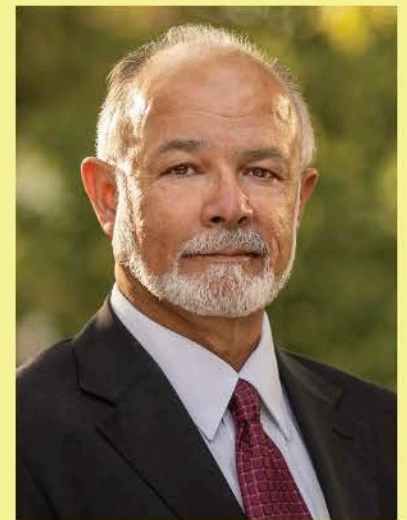
Last April, I had the privilege of attending the 2021 Columbia College graduation ceremonies. Covid safety protocols changed the format of the ceremonies but nothing could change the pride and excitement on the faces of the graduates as they received their diplomas. Especially our Promise students! Each of them has a different story as to how they achieved this milestone during these challenging times, but one common denominator is their futures are limitless because of the education they received at Columbia College.

We at the Columbia College Foundation are dedicated to reducing the obstacles for all students to receive a quality education. Working with our donors and community partners, this past year we were able to expand our free-tuition Promise program to cover two years of learning and offer a one-time bonus of \$300 to new and returning Promise students at the beginning of the fall semester. We also awarded hardship grants to students who lost income because of the mandatory shut down of the economy. These grants helped students partially cover basic living expenses and technology costs necessitated by remote learning. Finally, with a new grant received from the Foundation for California Community Colleges, we awarded scholarships to "Finish Line" scholars who were close to completing certificates or degrees at Columbia College. Every year for the next four years, twenty qualified students will each receive an award of \$5,000 from this grant.

It is time for all of us to continue to stand and cheer the achiever – the one who recognizes the challenges and does something about it. Thank you for your financial support this past year. I hope you will continue to join us in our investment in the achievers – our students.

## From the College President

In August 2021, students and staff were welcomed back to Columbia College's campus. It has been a joy to see students scurrying to get to class, studying in the library, getting tutored in the Academic Achievement Center as well as online, and greeting one another with exuberance while keeping socially distanced. Masks are still required on campus as expected by CDC guidelines for higher education with mixed vaccine status. Classes are being held both face-to-face and online, and our Spring schedule looks much like Fall. About 50% of Columbia College courses have on-campus components in the spring, including the hands-on subjects that are so vital to our students. To support those attending classes online, the Columbia College library continues to loan laptops, hotspots, and textbooks to students in need to ensure students' success. While Yosemite Community College District is not mandating vaccines, we will begin testing students, faculty, and staff starting in January 2022.



Dr. G.H. Javaheirpour

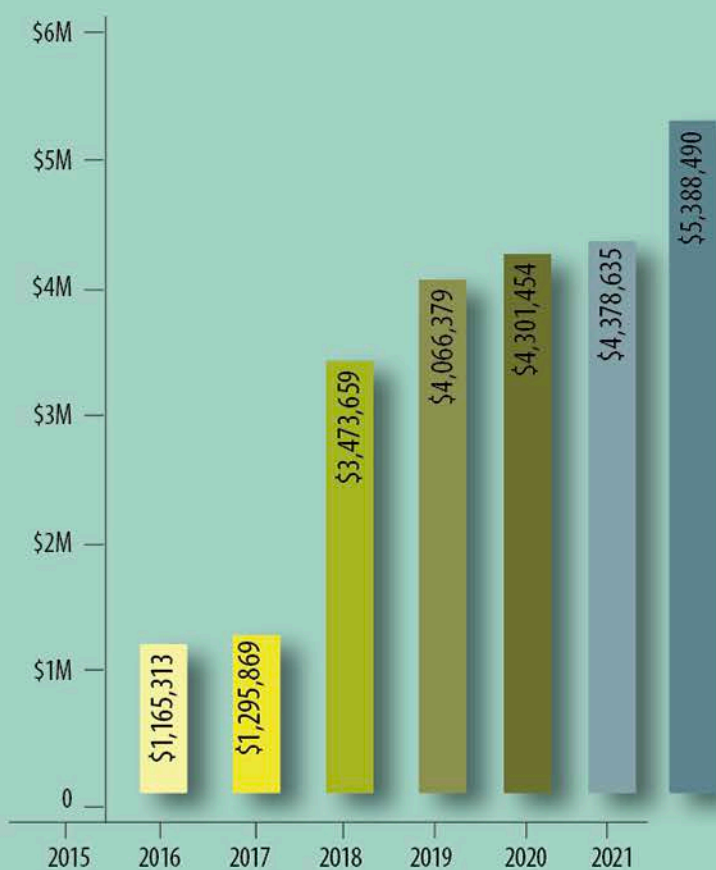
Serving as Interim President has been a very fulfilling assignment. All administrators, faculty, and staff whom I have come in contact with have exhibited sincere dedication to Columbia College and the success of all students. I am grateful also to the Columbia College Foundation for the vital support it provides throughout the year. I am happy to share that we have a pool of very qualified candidates for the presidential position, and I am hoping you will have an inspirational, devoted leader at the helm in the coming year. I appreciate being a part of this team for the short time I have been here. Many thanks to all!

# Fiscal Report 2020-2021

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 \$5 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 2015–2021



## Sources of Funds 2020-21

<b>TOTAL CONTRIBUTED</b>	<b>\$417,525</b>
Individuals/Organizations	\$357,955
Osher Scholarship Fund	\$24,000
Columbia College match	\$35,570
<b>INVESTMENT GAIN</b>	<b>\$1,015,407</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,432,932</b>

## Disbursements & Expenses 2020-2021

<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>\$382,000</b>
Scholarships & Awards	\$257,233
Programs/Projects	\$91,349
Promise Program (fees/tuition)	\$33,418
<b>OTHER EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$46,046</b>
Investment fees	\$25,240
Administration/other	\$20,806
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$428,046</b>

## Investing in the Foundation

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.

**CCF Endowment Challenge** – A endowment gift of any size will be invested to build long-term support for student needs today and for years to come.

# New Endowment Challenge will MATCH your endowment gift to local education

COLUMBIA COLLEGE FOUNDATION

## ENDOWMENT CHALLENGE

Grow the future of local education

The Columbia College Foundation has an exciting opportunity to build long-term support for local students with our new CCF Endowment Challenge.

Thanks to a new federal grant, Columbia College has the opportunity to receive a full match for any endowment gift made to the Columbia College

Foundation in the next four years. The college is eligible for up to \$390,000 in these federal matching funds – which means up to \$780,000 in new support invested now for the future of local students.

This benefits Columbia College students of all ages seeking affordable training and education for future careers in health care, hospitality, business, education, firefighting, forestry and more.

Here's how it works: when donors make an endowment gift of any size to our general endowment, an existing scholarship, or to start their own endowed fund with a pledge of \$10,000 or more, a dollar-for-dollar match will go to the new CCF Endowment Challenge Fund. Under terms of the grant, federal dollars in the Challenge Fund remain invested for 20 years, then may be used by the Foundation for future student needs.

It's a unique chance for donors to exponentially grow the value of their contribution through endowment giving.

CCF Trustee Charles Segerstrom and his brother, Clark, were the first donors to act on the opportunity, when they revived a scholarship that honors their late father, William Segerstrom.

“We had been thinking about reestablishing our scholarship for a long time,” Charles said. “This offer made the timing a no-brainer because we could double the impact for the college overall. I hope others will see it this way too, because of the unusual opportunity to multiply the impact.”

### INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE?

Contact Amy Nilson at 209.588.5055 or via email at [nilsona@yosemite.edu](mailto:nilsona@yosemite.edu).



### How to Give



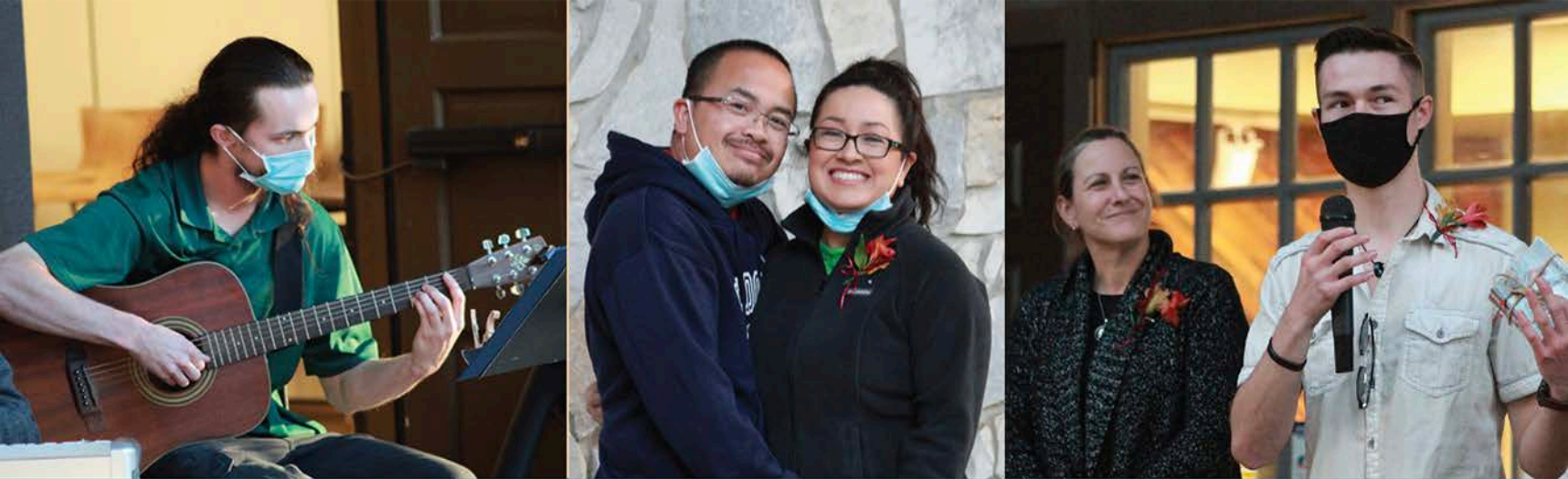
Donations to the Columbia College Foundation may be made at any time online at our website: [gocolumbia.edu/foundation](http://gocolumbia.edu/foundation)

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](mailto:nilsona@yosemite.edu).

Columbia College Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization. Your donation is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Tax ID# 23-7306390



## STUDENTS, FAMILIES CELEBRATE CCC FINISH LINE ACHIEVEMENTS

The Columbia College Foundation hosted a small campus gathering in November to honor its first 20 recipients of the new CCC Finish Line Scholarship. It's the biggest scholarship program the Foundation has managed, with funding for 20 \$2,500 awards each semester for the next four years to help students attend fulltime as they finish up their last year of study at Columbia.

More than half the recipients were able to attend with friends and family members and represented a true cross section of the Columbia College community. Honored students ranged in age from 20 to 60 plus, and with majors including business, culinary, education, physics, social services and more.

They shared stories of what brought them to Columbia, what turning points helped them toward their "finish line" and what words of advice they have for fellow students.

"Never give up on your dreams – you're never too old to learn!" said a child development student who just turned 61.

"Take advantage of the resources here and join the TRiO Program!" said another student planning to transfer in the spring to Sonoma state to pursue sociology.

"Look at all these others around you and soak in all you can!" said a business student headed for a career in financial planning.

"Push through and you will be rewarded," said a culinary student aiming to start a baking business.

Sociology student Amelia Vongphairoth, a re-entry student with two teenagers, attended the event with her husband, and enjoyed the chance to connect with fellow Finish Line students after so much time away from campus.

"I was just blown away," she said with a huge smile. "It was inspiring and energizing to hear everyone's stories. I was honored to be here."

Amelia will transfer in January to CSU Chico – the Foundation's first CCC Finish Line graduate.

**"Never give up on your dreams – you're never too old to learn!"** said a child development student who just turned 61.

"My whole experience at Columbia has been life changing," she said. "At first everything was intimidating, I didn't think I would belong, I questioned myself a lot. But there was so much help available."

She credited great instructors and helpful counselors for their guidance and encouragement.

"Everything changed for me," she said. "My perceptions, my perspective, my confidence. It has opened my eyes to so many opportunities and to the work I can do with this degree."

*CCC Finish Line is a program of the Foundation for California Community Colleges. As one of the first 34 community colleges selected to participate, Columbia will receive funding for \$100,000 in scholarships and \$25,000 in emergency grants annually for the next four years.*



## Columbia College Foundation gifts received through November 1, 2021

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MJC Academic Senate  
P.E.O. Sisterhood Chapter LH  
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Schwab Charitable  
Sonora Area Foundation  
Sonora Lions Club  
Sorooptimist International of Twain Harte  
Tuolumne County Garden Club  
Tuolumne Utilities District  
United Health Group  
YCCD Leadership Team  
Zuk Financial, Nicole Kikugawa  
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