



Creating college bound communities

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NEWS RELEASE

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SAN JOSE-AREA SENIORS AWARDED \$140,000 FROM THE SILICON VALLEY COLLEGE SUCCESS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

UC Santa Cruz Educational Partnership Center and San Jose Cal-SOAP Award 76 Scholarships to Support Graduating, College-Bound Students

(SANTA CRUZ, CA) – As part of its work to increase college access and opportunities for students in Santa Clara County, the UC Santa Cruz Educational Partnership Center (EPC), in collaboration with the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, has announced the recipients of the Silicon Valley College Success Scholarship Fund. The scholarship fund was established to support college-bound, financially disadvantaged seniors at San Jose-area high schools who partner with the San Jose California Student Opportunity and Access Program (Cal-SOAP), one of many student academic preparation and college awareness programs under the EPC umbrella. Cal-SOAP's ongoing partnership with the high schools in East Side Union High School District and San Jose Unified School District creates and sustains a college-going culture for students and families through academic support and advising services and financial aid and college admission information and workshops, but many students face significant financial roadblocks on the college-going pathway. With generous funding from College Access Foundation of California, the additional scholarships allow students to pursue their higher education goals without the financial barriers that make it difficult for so many young people to attend and succeed in college.

“Our experience working with students, many of whom are first generation college-going and from low-income families, suggests that a significant barrier to pursuing postsecondary education is a lack of knowledge about education costs and available financial aid. We are delighted that through the Silicon Valley College Success Scholarship Fund we can help to meet the financial needs of our students and motivate them to make their college dreams a reality,” said Carrol Moran, executive director of the Educational Partnership Center.

“We support students academically and provide information and resources around college-going, but the scholarship fund has helped San Jose Cal-SOAP support students financially as well, which translates into

more students pursuing higher education,” said Sonia Ramos, executive director of San Jose Cal-SOAP and chair of the scholarship review committee. “It is particularly rewarding to be able to champion and encourage those students who cannot access other forms of financial aid but demonstrate great potential for future success.”

Scholarship recipients, their families, and special guests will celebrate their achievements at an awards ceremony on Wednesday, July 25, 2007, from 6:00-8:30 p.m. at the new Evergreen Valley College library, 3095 Yerba Buena Road, San Jose, CA. Longtime community leader, education advocate, and mentor Rudy J. Rodriguez will provide the keynote address at 6:30 p.m. Each of the scholarship recipients will be presented a certificate from representatives from various higher education institutions, including the Vice President of Academic Affairs, San Jose State University; President, Evergreen Valley College; Chancellor, San Jose/Evergreen Valley College District; Vice President of Student Affairs, San Jose City College; and a representative from UC Santa Cruz. In addition, Assembly Member Joe Coto has prepared certificates to honor the students; staff from his office will be in attendance at the ceremony.

The Silicon Valley College Success Scholarship Fund received more than 250 total applications, which demonstrates the high need for financial support for students across the region. Selection criteria included academic performance, participation in extracurricular activities, demonstrated financial need, letters of recommendation, and personal essays. The following 76 students were awarded scholarships for the 2007-08 academic year:

Marilyn Agayo-Franco, National Hispanic University
Perla Alcaraz, De Anza College
Cynthia Alvarez, Evergreen Valley College
Gerardo Alvarez, De Anza College
Maria Arana, Evergreen Valley College
Anahi Arenas, San Jose State University
Maira Ayala
Larry Bach, University of California, Berkeley
May Barrera, University of California, Davis
Brenda Batres, Evergreen Valley College
Sarah Belete, San Francisco State University
Nathan Belete, San Francisco State University
Carmen Buckner, University of California, Berkeley
Wendy Carrillo, San Jose State University
Cecilia Chavez, San Jose State University
America Colin, Evergreen Valley College
Marcos Corona, University of California, Davis
Francisco Cruz, Evergreen Valley College
Ivan Diego, University of California, Davis
William Diep, De Anza College
Sonia Duenas, Santa Clara University
Victor Felix, San Jose City College
Erica Figueroa

Daniel Galan, De Anza College
Yesenia Garcia, San Jose City College
Florcerferina Garcia, University of California, Davis
Flor Garcia Herrera, De Anza College
Anna Giang, University of California, Santa Barbara
Desiree Gillis, San Jose State University
Asha Goins, Evergreen Valley College
Misty Gomez, Evergreen Valley College
Oswaldo Gonzales, San Jose City College
Amanda Guel, West Valley College
Mayra Hernandez, San Jose City College
Jessica Herrick, Butte Community College
Phaedra Hopkins, Benedict College
Hong Huynh, University of the Pacific
Karina Jimenez, De Anza College
Alondra Juarez, San Jose City College
Abnette Kaffl, University of California, Davis
Angela Kamau, De Anza College
Manjit Kaur, University of California, Davis
Jimmy Lam, University of California, Berkeley
Melissa Lem, Evergreen Valley College
Nhan Luu Tran, Evergreen Valley College
Rogelio Maciel, San Jose State University
Arely Marquez, San Jose State University
Fredy Martinez, University of California, Los Angeles
Paulina Mendez-Romos, Evergreen Valley College
Jasmine Mendoza, Evergreen Valley College
Carlota Merino, San Jose City College
Angela Montes, San Jose State University
Rogelio Mortin, University of California, Davis
Tu Ngo, San Jose State University
Vu Nguyen, University of California, San Diego
Mai Tram Nguyen, San Jose State University
Flora Nguyen, San Francisco State University
Lucy Nguyen, University of California, Santa Barbara
Minh Nguyen, University of California, Davis
Stephanie Nguyen, University of California, Davis
Hannah Hanh Bich Nguyen, University of California, Davis
Pedro Quintana, San Diego State University
Yaneth Rodriguez, De Anza College
Irvin Romero, Evergreen Valley College
Mayra Salvador, California State University, Stanislaus
Demetricia Sampson, San Jose State University
Valentina Sanchez, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
Yessenia Sanchez, San Jose State University
Gousia Shoukat, University of California, Berkeley
Patricia Sicat, De Anza College
Zulema Torres, San Jose City College
Duc Tran, University of California, San Diego
Arturo Vazquez, Evergreen Valley College
Brisa Velazquez, National Hispanic University
Mia Williams, California State University, Northridge
Simon Yue, San Jose State University

“These students have consistently demonstrated talent, hard work, and dedication to their educational goals,” said Caroline O. Boitano, president, College Access Foundation of California. “College Access Foundation is proud to support the Educational Partnership Center and San Jose Cal-SOAP in their work to show them how to make those goals a reality.”

Skyrocketing academic costs are among the barriers that make it increasingly difficult for many students to pursue higher education, particularly low-income and educationally disadvantaged students. The Silicon Valley College Success Scholarship Fund is an important part of the UC Santa Cruz Educational Partnership Center’s comprehensive, early college outreach efforts to support students, families, and schools, and EPC is committed to building college-bound communities by improving student academic achievement and increasing college-going rates. For more information about the Silicon Valley College Success Scholarship Fund, the scholarship award ceremony, or other media inquiries, please contact JAIMIE VARGAS, Director of Development & Communication at (831) 459-1747 or jevargas@ucsc.edu.

About UC Santa Cruz Educational Partnership Center & San Jose Cal-SOAP

Established in 1999, the UC Santa Cruz Educational Partnership Center (EPC) coordinates new and ongoing outreach efforts of the University of California, Santa Cruz with the goal of increasing access and opportunity to higher education for students across the Monterey Bay and San Jose/Silicon Valley regions. EPC is a research- and data-driven, umbrella organization for an array of complimentary, integrated academic preparation programs, serving students, teachers, and families from kindergarten through college. The mission of the Educational Partnership Center is to create college-bound communities that improve student learning and increase college-going rates among students from low-income and traditionally non-college-going families in collaboration with school, college, business, and community partners. Cal-SOAP is a statewide initiative of the California Student Aid Commission. The San Jose Cal-SOAP program works collaboratively with K-12 and other education partners in an effort to build a college-going culture and motivate students to make the connection between postsecondary education and future career aspirations.

About College Access Foundation of California

College Access Foundation of California, the largest grantmaking organization of its kind in the state, helps California students who have financial need attend college. The Foundation provides millions of dollars in grants to community-based organizations that are helping students prepare for and enter institutions of higher learning.

About Silicon Valley Community Foundation

The merger of Community Foundation Silicon Valley and Peninsula Community Foundation took effect on January 1, 2007, creating Silicon Valley Community Foundation, a catalyst and leader for innovative solutions to the region’s most challenging problems. The new community foundation is among the largest community foundations in the nation, with more than \$1.7 billion in assets under management and 1,400 philanthropic funds. In a region known for innovation in business and technology as well as philanthropy, the new community foundation will address local needs and support Silicon Valley’s charitable giving to causes locally, nationally and around the globe. Find out more at www.siliconvalleycf.org.