

PRESS RELEASE
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CONTACT:

Leila Dufurrena
Director of Philanthropy
The Community Foundation San Luis Obispo County
leila@cfsloco.org
(805) 543-2323

Investing in Futures: \$460,148 Awarded in Local Scholarships

San Luis Obispo, Calif. – At the Community Foundation, scholarships open doors to education for local students, made possible by donors who believe in their future.

This year, a total of \$460,148 was awarded to students across San Luis Obispo County, supporting a wide range of educational paths — from trades and aviation to science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics, health care, and students returning to school. In total, 100 awards were granted to students representing 12 high schools and local colleges across the county, with individual awards reaching up to \$20,000. These scholarships play a critical role in reducing financial barriers, allowing students to focus on their education and future with greater confidence.

The 2025-26 scholarship cycle also saw significant growth and engagement. Nearly 350 students submitted applications — a 41% increase in applicants. New scholarship software allows students to complete one application, with the system automatically matching them to opportunities for which they are eligible. Applications were carefully reviewed by close to 100 community evaluators, whose time and insight help make the program possible.

Scholarships were awarded to students from schools across the region, including Paso Robles High School, San Luis Obispo High School, Nipomo High School, Arroyo Grande High School and Morro Bay High School, as well as students attending Cuesta College, Allan Hancock College and universities nationwide.

Students are pursuing higher education at colleges and universities across the country, with strong interest in STEAM fields as well as medicine, nursing, and health care. Local institutions like Cuesta College and Cal Poly remain popular choices, reflecting both accessibility and strong academic pathways within the region.

Among the many scholarships awarded, the Richard J. Weyhrich Leadership Awards recognize graduating seniors who demonstrate strong leadership and a deep commitment to their communities. Established in 2006 through a generous bequest, the award continues to honor Weyhrich's legacy by supporting exceptional young leaders across San Luis Obispo County.

Each year, one student from every county high school is selected through a rigorous review and interview process. Now in its 20th year, the program has awarded more than \$800,000 to over 290 students. This year, 11 students will each receive a \$4,000 award.

One of this year's recipients is Jared, a senior at Nipomo High School, whose leadership is rooted in service, empathy, and initiative. With plans to pursue a career in medicine, he has taken on meaningful roles across campus while also creating opportunities for others — most notably founding an outreach program that connects younger students to college pathways. Shaped in part by his early experience

learning English, Jared leads with authenticity and compassion, consistently showing up for those around him and working to strengthen his community.



Jared Aguilera, Nipomo High School, Richard J. Weyhrich Leadership

Through more than 50 scholarship funds created by donors, the Community Foundation continues to invest in local students, carrying forward the spirit of generosity that makes these opportunities possible. The impact is both immediate and long term, supporting students today while strengthening the future of our community.

For more information on the Community Foundation's scholarship programs, to view a full list of recipients, or to learn how to establish a scholarship fund, visit cfsloco.org/scholarships or contact Emily Jagger, scholarship manager, at emily@cfsloco.org.

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About The Community Foundation San Luis Obispo County

The Community Foundation San Luis Obispo County is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization created by and for the people of San Luis Obispo County to support local charitable giving. Since 1998, The Community Foundation has awarded more than \$80 million in grants and scholarships to nonprofit partners and local students, and now manages over \$100 million in charitable assets. Through its grantmaking, scholarships, and partnerships, the Foundation supports a vision for an inclusive, thriving, and resilient community—providing support to all areas of our county in perpetuity. Learn more at www.cfsloco.org.