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# PRESIDENT'S SCHOLARS



C O N F E R R A L







## 2025-26 President's Scholars

### MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT IRIS S. LEVINE

It takes a special kind of Bronco to become a President's Scholar. These students excel in the classroom and take that same energy into their communities. They volunteer their time after class at animal shelters, churches, libraries, schools and theaters. They give their energy, excellence and effort to make a difference — and it is that kind of endeavor that we so proudly celebrate here today. More than 600 students have received this honor since 1983, reflecting the dedication and spirit that define Cal Poly Pomona. Today's program is made possible by the generosity of our benefactors, who believe in the power of education and in Broncos like these. Thank you for joining us to honor those that continue to inspire action, elevate purpose and drive meaningful change.







## 2025-26 President's Scholars

### BENEFACTORS

## DRS. JANET & W. KEITH KELLOGG II

Janet "Jean" Kellogg and W. Keith Kellogg II were longtime supporters of the university. In 1999, the Kelloggs donated \$200,000 to match contributions to the President's Council Scholars program. Their gift inspired numerous individual and family donations, leading to the creation of a significant endowment fund.

W. Keith Kellogg II is the namesake and grandson of cereal magnate W.K. Kellogg, one of the university's founders. He and Janet were champions of the W. Keith and Janet Kellogg University Art Gallery, which was expanded because of their generous support. The Honors College was named the Keith & Jean Kellogg Honors College in 2006 after a generous bequest from the W. Keith Kellogg II Trust.

In 1994, W. Keith Kellogg II received an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Cal Poly Pomona and was also recognized as an honorary university alumnus. He passed away in 2005; Janet Kellogg passed away in 2014.







## 2025-26 President's Scholars

### CHLOE ALCHIN

ALBERT ZORASTER President's Scholar

**Major:** Animal Science (Pre-Veterinary emphasis)

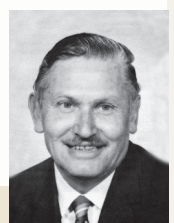
**Don B. Huntley College of Agriculture**

**Activities:** CPP Horsemanship Club; Student-Athlete Advisory Committee; CPP Pre-Veterinary Club, Kellogg Honors College; CPP Cross Country and Track teams; Groom at Arabian Horse Center

Chloe fondly remembers her experiences with a volunteer organization administering annual vaccines to week-old goats as eye opening to her desired career path in animal sciences. Her inspiration is Temple Grandin, whose work with livestock has transformed animal welfare, and Grandin's "Glass Walls" video series motivated her to "strive for honesty and integrity as I pursue my education." She describes her time at CPP as immersive, from being on the cross-country team, presenting research and community volunteering through Kellogg Honors College, and learning from the encouragement of professors who have worked in industry. A dual citizen of the United States and Australia, she plans to pursue her doctorate of veterinarian medicine at UC Davis, University of Colorado or University of Sydney in New South Wales where her father is from. She plans to combine her interests in athletics and veterinary medicine by applying for residency as a sports medicine and rehabilitation doctor to create a positive impact on animal welfare and to help educate the generation that follows her.



**CHRISTINE and ALBERT ZORASTER** joined the President's Council in 1992. Christine endowed this scholarship in the memory of her husband Albert. His life celebrated the ideals of hard work and determination; he was an advocate for his community, industry and children. The Albert Zoraster scholarship is awarded to the student who values hard work and is dedicated to the enrichment of their community.



BENEFACTOR

Christine & Albert Zoraster





## 2025-26 President's Scholars

### ELIAN HERRERA

MARK ALDRICH President's Scholar

**Major:** Finance, Real Estate and Law

**College of Business Administration**

**Activities:** Adelante Estudiantes; César E. Chávez Center for Higher Education

Elían Herrera is driven by the belief that education and financial knowledge can change lives, especially in underrepresented communities where access to these tools is often limited. Growing up, he was curious about how people build and protect wealth, and that curiosity grew into a passion for studying Finance, Real Estate, and Law. On campus, Elían serves as treasurer for Adelante Estudiantes, managing the club's budget and supporting cultural and educational events, and works at the César E. Chávez Center for Higher Education, where he helps organize programs that celebrate diverse voices. He has volunteered at local food drives and remains committed to service as a guiding value in his life. A first-generation college student, Elían credits his parents for teaching him perseverance and humility, saying, "Their sacrifices and dedication have shaped who I am and inspired me to take my education seriously and give back to others." Looking ahead, he hopes to become a licensed attorney and real estate broker, and one day build a school in an underserved community.



Long-time philanthropists and Cal Poly Pomona supporters, **JO** and **TED DUTTON** generously established this scholarship named after their son, **MARK ALDRICH**. Mark is a Cal Poly Pomona alumnus who earned a bachelor's degree in finance, real estate and law in 1994. To recognize the contributions made by the fraternity, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, first consideration is given to its members for the Mark Aldrich scholarship.



BENEFACTORS

Jo and Theodore "Ted" Dutton





## 2025-26 President's Scholars

### JOSHUA HARDY

EILEEN AND MICHAEL CONSIDINE President's Scholar

**Major:** Business Administration/Computer Information Systems

**College of Business Administration**

**Activities:** Family time; motorcycle riding; fishing; traveling; exercise

In 2017, Joshua Hardy made the life-changing decision to join the U.S. Marine Corps, which he credits for teaching him self-sufficiency, responsibility and leadership. Through his active-duty career as a Data Systems Administrator, he managed secure systems, led training exercises, and mentored fellow service members, leading to his desire to continue learning in the IT field. As a father of two, Joshua balances the demands of school and family with determination, supported by his wife, whom he calls his greatest role model. "With her support and dedication to school in her own field, we have been able to accomplish more than I ever dreamed of. We work as a team to give our kids the best opportunities possible," he reflects. Joshua is grateful to Cal Poly Pomona for offering resources such as scholarships and programs that allow students to thrive. Looking ahead, he envisions building a career as a senior systems administrator while continuing to build a meaningful life with his family, one that combines professional achievement with his love of the outdoors.



Alumnus **MICHAEL CONSIDINE** and his wife **EILEEN** have been active supporters of Cal Poly Pomona. From industrial manufacturing to investment management and sod distribution, the Considines have been fortunate in their business endeavors. Students who demonstrate the ability to succeed and enhance the financial or banking industries are awarded the Eileen and Michael Considine scholarship.



BENEFACTORS

Michael and Eileen Considine





## 2025-26 President's Scholars

**ROBIN YEH**

GREGOIRE FAMILY President's Scholar

**Major:** Accounting

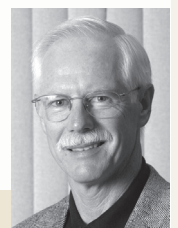
**College of Business Administration**

**Activities:** Beta Alpha Psi; Associated Students Inc.; Kellogg Honors College; Bronco Investment Club

Robin is an aspiring accounting professional with ambitions of pursuing a career in tax and advisory services at a Big 4 firm. This past summer, Robin interned with KPMG in Silicon Valley, an opportunity to build technical expertise while applying academic knowledge in a professional setting. Earlier experience in internal audit at Kaiser Permanente provided a strong foundation in compliance, risk assessment, and operational efficiency, while a current role as projects and operations assistant in the ASI marketing department has strengthened her organizational, budgeting and collaboration skills. As president of Beta Alpha Psi, the accounting honors society, Robin has guided mentorship programs, career development workshops and networking events that support student success. Reflecting on this experience, Robin notes, "One of the most rewarding aspects of leadership is helping others grow while pushing myself to reach higher goals." Robin is grateful for scholarship support, which she says has allowed her to further develop as a student leader while preparing for a successful transition into the accounting profession.



**RONALD GREGOIRE** began his impressive career in the auto dealership business by joining an accounting firm after graduating with honors from Cal Poly Pomona in 1971. Following many successful years in the auto industry, Ron sold his business to enjoy time with family and friends. The Gregoire Family scholarship is presented to the student who exhibits strong leadership abilities and a determination to succeed.



BENEFACTOR

**Gregoire Family**





## 2025-26 President's Scholars

### ELIZA MONZERAT CORDOVA

GWEN EVANS LA BOUNTY President's Scholar and JASEN STRAND Memorial President's Scholar

**Major:** Liberal Studies (Pre-Credential Emphasis)

**College of Education and Integrative Studies**

**Activities:** Alpha Pi Sigma; Multicultural Greek Council

Liberal studies at Cal Poly Pomona has taught Eliza the value of integrative learning, where she weaves together academic disciplines, leadership experiences and community service into her vision of becoming an educator. Her passion for teaching stems from early encounters with educators who "saw students not just for their grades, but for their potential, their struggles and their voice." That realization grew as a college tutor at Citrus College, where she tutored peers and witnessed the transformative power of education to empower and uplift. Her leadership roles as fundraising chair for Alpha Pi Sigma and treasurer of the Multicultural Greek Council have further shaped her commitment to equity, representation, and service. Beyond campus, her years in the service industry strengthened her perseverance and work ethic, while tutoring and her internship at her former elementary school have connected her full circle to her community roots. With deep gratitude to her mother's unwavering example of resilience and love, Eliza strives to nurture curiosity, confidence and compassion in students and create learning environments where children feel safe to grow.



The first lady of Cal Poly Pomona from 1977 to 1985, **GWEN EVANS LA BOUNTY** was a devoted wife and mother; she embraced the university community until she passed away in 1985. As an advocate for education, Mrs. La Bounty pursued her teaching credential, served as a PTA president and was involved in a local preschool program. Mrs. La Bounty served as a role model of charity and compassion, and the Gwen Evans La Bounty scholarship is awarded to the student who represents these attributes and is committed to educational excellence.

In Memoriam  
**Gwen Evans  
La Bounty**

BENEFACTORS



Friends and Family of Gwen Evans La Bounty





## 2025-26 President's Scholars

### MELISSA WADLEY

ROBERTS FAMILY President's Scholar

**Major:** Liberal Studies  
(Pre-Credential Emphasis)

**College of Education and  
Integrative Studies**

**Activities:** Kellogg Honors College; Children's  
Ministry Director, Gracepointe Church;  
Volunteer, Operation Christmas Child; Team  
Time Leader, WinShape Camps

From an early age, Melissa experienced how deeply a teacher's encouragement can shape a child's sense of self. In second grade while navigating separation anxiety, she found comfort in a teacher who noticed her, supported her and became a lifelong mentor. His compassion revealed the power of education to build confidence and belonging, an example that continues to inspire her journey. That experience, combined with her love for working with children, has led to years of service in both education and ministry. She currently serves as the children's ministry director at Gracepointe Church of Hacienda Heights and as the Logistics Coordinator for Operation Christmas Child in the San Gabriel Valley. This past summer, she gained hands-on leadership experience with WinShape Camps as a team time leader, operations specialist and campus representative. Melissa carries with her the words of educator Rita Pierson, who reminded the world that "every child deserves a champion." She hopes to be that champion as a kindergarten teacher who creates safe, supportive spaces where every child feels seen and capable.



**DOROTHY and KENT ROBERTS** have been members of the President's Council since 1985. As past owners of an English language development publishing business for 26 years and active participants in several educational nonprofits in their community, the Roberts demonstrate their dedication to the educational process on a daily basis. The Roberts Family scholarship is intended to recognize promising students who are seeking educational careers, have demonstrated superior scholastic performance and want to make a difference in the world.



BENEFACTORS

**Dorothy and Kent Roberts**





## 2025-26 President's Scholars

### ELAINE KADDIS

CHANG FAMILY President's Scholar

**Major:** Civil Engineering

**College of Engineering**

**Activities:** American Society of Civil Engineers; Timber Strong Design Build Team; long distance running; playing piano

Elaine grew up inspired by her grandparents, who immigrated from the Philippines and Egypt and built new lives through perseverance, humility and a deep commitment to helping others. They taught her that "resilience means using challenges as a chance to grow stronger and lift others up," a lesson that has shaped her character and ambitions. In high school, an architecture class sparked her interest in combining creativity, math and service, a discovery that led her to pursue civil engineering at Cal Poly Pomona. She has served as a board member for the American Society of Civil Engineers, structural lead for the Timber Strong Design Build Team, and now technical events coordinator for the Pacific Southwest Symposium, bringing together students and industry professionals from across the region. As the oldest of six children, she is devoted to leading by example, including her volunteer work as a pianist for her local church and as a coach for Glendora High School's Ethics Bowl team. Elaine hopes to become a licensed structural engineer, designing projects that protect and strengthen communities.



**WEN** and **MEI LIEN CHANG** are outstanding supporters of their community and Cal Poly Pomona. Wen and Mei Lien firmly believe that education is the most effective tool to aid all social classes in the pursuit of their dreams. The Chang Family scholarship was established to assist outstanding engineering students in their pursuit of scholastic excellence.



BENEFACTORS

Mei Lien and Wen Chang





## 2025-26 President's Scholars

### PETER OTOSHI

OSCAR PERLAZA President's Scholar

**Major:** Civil Engineering and Engineering Physics  
**College of Engineering**

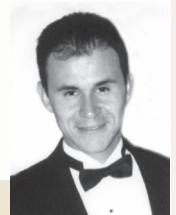
**Activities:** Civil Design Intern for Craftwater; VP for CA Water Environment Association-American Water Works Association-CPP; Kellogg Honors College; Maximizing Engineering Potential; Asian American Architects and Engineers Association; American Society of Civil Engineers; California Water Environment Association; American Water Works Association; National Society of Leadership and Success; Trinity Reformed Baptist Church; acoustic guitar; disc golf; football

Peter is fascinated with water engineering and is motivated to contribute to a field that will improve the quality of life for local and global communities. A drinking water defluoridation research project at Cal Poly Pomona in his freshman year helped steer him toward a design internship with the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts. Inspired by the experience, he served as an engineering intern in Nigeria, where he collaborated with locals in rural communities on borehole drilling, sanitation and development projects. "I'll never forget the thrill expressed by villagers when our drilling team hit water. The opportunity confirmed that my career goal of providing access to clean water would come through developing relationships." Looking ahead, Peter hopes to work as a water engineer consultant and pursue professional licensure and graduate study in water resources, with the goal of providing clean water and sanitation to underserved communities worldwide.



As the former director of the Maximizing Engineering Potential (MEP) program, **CATHARINE HUDSPETH** has helped countless students on their way to successful careers in engineering. The Oscar Perlaza scholarship was created to recognize the outstanding leadership and perseverance of a highly motivated MEP civil engineering alumnus whose life ended too soon. The Oscar Perlaza scholarship is awarded to the student who exemplifies leadership and dedication to the development of others.

In Memoriam  
**Oscar Perlaza**



**BENEFACTOR**

**M. Catharine Hudspeth**





## 2025-26 President's Scholars

### MARIA N. APONTE

SHELTON FAMILY President's Scholar

**Major:** Electrical and Computer Engineering  
**College of Engineering**

**Activities:** Co-Lead of Unmanned Ground Vehicle Software Team, Northrop Grumman Collaboration Project; adult-league soccer player

Maria's educational journey embodies the belief that it is never too late to follow your dreams. She immigrated to the United States in 2000, focused on learning a new language and earning citizenship while working three jobs to provide better opportunities for her family. After earning her high school diploma and securing employment with the County of San Bernardino, Maria decided to pursue her lifelong desire to study engineering and spent 11 years balancing school with her busy life before transferring to Cal Poly Pomona. Here, Maria says she is inspired by her faculty members who encourage growth and learning, and is thrilled to participate in career-readiness projects such as co-leading the unmanned ground vehicle software team within the Northrop Grumman Collaboration Project. Maria's goal is to "make a meaningful impact by solving real problems and serve as a role model." She aspires to use her education to develop affordable and sustainable technological solutions that can benefit communities, such as energy-efficient systems for low-income housing or low-cost automation for small businesses.



**MICHAEL and TINA SHELTON** have been part of the campus community for more than 30 years. The Sheltons are each the first member of their respective families to achieve a college education. This scholarship was established to honor the memory of Doc's parents, Otto and Lois Shelton, who grew up during the Great Depression and were only able to attend school through the eighth grade. The Shelton Family Scholarship is designed to provide recognition and assistance to an outstanding student who is first in their immediate family to attend college.



BENEFACTORS

Tina and Michael "Doc" Shelton





## 2025-26 President's Scholars

**ANDY LE**

IANA WILLIAMS President's Scholar

**Major:** Mechanical Engineering

**College of Engineering**

**Activities:** ASME (American Society of Mechanical Engineers); CPP Robotics Club; Kellogg Honors College; Tau Beta Pi (National Engineering Honor Society); Pi Tau Sigma (Mechanical Engineering Honor Society); Community Wellness Project at Lopez Urban Farms; Church Leadership & Catechism Mentor; Clothing Donation Initiative to Charities Church Food Donation Program

For as long as he can remember, Andy has been captivated by how things work. As a child, he would take apart household appliances out of pure curiosity, not yet realizing that this fascination with mechanics would one day evolve into a purpose-driven career path. Now a mechanical engineering student at Cal Poly Pomona, he sees engineering not only as a problem-solving but also as a tool for change. His passion lies in robotics, with the goal of developing accessible technologies such as cost-effective prosthetics, mobile learning robots and assistive devices that empower individuals with disabilities. Inspired by his mother, whom he calls his greatest role model, he reflects, "She taught me that no challenge is insurmountable, and no effort is too great when it means securing a better future for you and those you hold dear." Guided by this lesson, he hopes to pursue graduate school and a career in robotics research and development, always driven by the belief that technology should build a future where no one is left behind.



As the former director of the Maximizing Engineering Potential (MEP) program, **CATHARINE HUDSPETH** has helped countless students on their way to successful careers in engineering. The Iana Williams scholarship was created to remember the outstanding leadership of a highly motivated MEP electrical engineering alumna whose life was cut short. The Iana Williams scholarship is intended to bring recognition to a student who has continued in Iana's tradition of furthering the development of technical expertise in their community.



BENEFACTOR

**M. Catharine Hudspeth**





## 2025-26 President's Scholars

### KAVISH SHAH

FRANK D. WHITEHEAD FAMILY President's Scholar (Graduate)

**Major:** Master's in Engineering Management  
**College of Engineering**

**Activities:** Global Logistics Intern, Corteva Agriscience; Process Specialist, Associated Students, Inc. at CPP

Kavish sees engineering management as a way to bring order to complexity, turning challenges into opportunities through thoughtful, data-driven solutions. His journey began in India as a continuous improvement engineer, where he discovered how small, strategic changes could spark meaningful efficiency gains. That insight inspired him to pursue his master's in engineering management at Cal Poly Pomona, blending technical analysis with leadership and strategy. Today, he works as a global logistics intern at Corteva Agriscience, building a Power BI dashboard to reduce seed waste and automating shipment tracking with APIs. On campus, he serves as a process specialist for Associated Students, Inc., leading digital transformation projects, and he contributes to the Autonomous Vehicles Lab by developing Python algorithms for vehicle routing optimization. His research also includes mapping electric vehicle charger distribution in Los Angeles County to inform sustainable infrastructure planning. Guided by his father's persistence as a small business owner, Kavish believes "even the smallest improvements can create lasting impact," and hopes to lead global supply chain innovation that advances efficiency and also uplifts people and communities.



**HELEN AND FRANK (DON) WHITEHEAD** co-founded LOUD Engineering in 1967 with just three employees, including Helen and Don. By the time they retired, their company was renowned for its skill and efficiency in the design, overhaul, and manufacture of airplane and helicopter landing gears. The Frank D. Whitehead Family scholarship is provided to recognize the achievements of outstanding graduate engineering students.



BENEFACTORS

Helen and Frank D. Whitehead





## 2025-26 President's Scholars

### LUCAS LEVIEUX

JAMES H. JONES President's Scholar

**Majors:** Urban and Regional Planning  
(Transportation and Infrastructure emphasis)

**Colleges of Environmental Design**

**Activities:** President of American Planning  
Student Association at CPP; Active  
Transportation Planner at Alta Planning +  
Design; transit enthusiast

Before Cal Poly Pomona, Lucas worked as a city bus driver and saw firsthand the challenges and opportunities of sustainable transportation. The experience, coupled with his desire to understand how cities work and can be improved, led him to urban and regional planning, which he considers his perfect major. Lucas also found community at CPP. "I found my people. It's such a great environment to be surrounded by classmates who care just as much as I do about building better cities." Lucas believes in taking a holistic approach to his education both inside and outside the classroom. From building a 100,000-word searchable database built on class notes to help classmates to his leadership in the American Planning Students Association club where he helped secure a competitive grant to sponsor 13 students' travel to the National Planning Conference, Lucas models the positive impact of channeling curiosity into meaningful action. He hopes to use the skills that he has learned at CPP to become a transportation planner to design public spaces and transit systems that foster connection, accessibility and a better quality of life.



The late **LT. COL. JAMES JONES** was a longtime university supporter who established two major art collections for Cal Poly Pomona. After serving in World War II, Jones studied citrus fruit production at the Cal Poly Voorhis campus and finally received his degree from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in 1951. The James H. Jones scholarship is presented to an exceptional environmental design student who seeks to improve the community.

In Memoriam  
**James H.  
Jones**

**BENEFACTOR**



**James H. Jones**





## 2025-26 President's Scholars

**DO KYUNG LEE**

RINEHART FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP (Graduate)

**Major:** Master of Landscape Architecture

**College of Environmental Design**

**Activities:** Microfarm Student Farm Manager; ASLA (CPP Student Chapter); NAMLA; Certified California Native Plant Landscaper; Firescaping Certified (ASLA, 2025); SUGi 2025 Fellow

Do Kyung's interest in landscape architecture emerges from her background in art and her lived experience of migration. Navigating two cultural contexts made her keenly aware of the relationship between identity and place, and of the ways landscapes hold memory and meaning. This perspective has been shaped by travel and a daily drawing practice, which helps her slow down, observe and uncover connections across her experiences. Drawing in particular has sharpened Do Kyung's sensitivity to sensory systems, teaching her to read her embodied responses and, in turn, imagine how design might evoke connection for others. Her encounters abroad, including a trip to Northern Ireland to study Derry's public spaces, affirmed her belief that landscapes can carry transnational echoes of struggle and solidarity and transcend borders. Now pursuing her Master of Landscape Architecture at Cal Poly Pomona, Do Kyung says, "Looking ahead, I hope to build a career in restoration and conservation, focusing on projects that strengthen ecosystems and communities alike." For her, design is a way to cultivate belonging while embracing the spirit of possibility.



**LARRY RINEHART** is the former president and chief executive officer of PFF Bank & Trust in Pomona and is a member of the President's Council. As a graduate from Pomona High School and the University of La Verne, Rinehart has been involved in the local community for many years. He has actively participated on various boards such as the Pomona Valley Red Cross, Mt. Baldy United Way, Fairplex, Casa Colina and the Cal Poly Pomona University Educational Trust. The Rinehart Family scholarship was established to recognize an outstanding student who is committed to the university and their local community.



BENEFACTOR

**Larry Rinehart**





## 2025-26 President's Scholars

### BRANDON J. OCEGUERA

AL LEVIE FAMILY President's Scholar

**Major:** Hospitality Management (Food and Beverage emphasis)

**The Collins College of Hospitality Management**

**Activities:** Club Management Association of America (CMAA); National Society of Minorities in Hospitality (NSMH); Hospitality Management Council; Associated Students, Inc. (ASI); logistics coordinator at The Restaurant at Kellogg Ranch; community service through church and local outreach initiatives

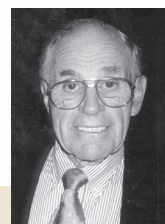
Brandon's passion for hospitality stems from making people feel valued. From running a funnel cake stand at one of California's busiest fairs to coordinating professional events through CMAA, he views service not as work but as a practice of presence and care. His role as an ordained minister has further deepened his respect for people's stories, cultures, and emotions. Inspired by his aunt Mary, who embodies strength and charisma, Brandon often asks, "How would Aunt Mary handle this?" to remain composed, creative, and courageous. Brandon envisions a career that redefines hospitality—curating memorable experiences while creating spaces where people feel truly seen and at home. "Heart, to me, means hospitality with soul. It's what makes people remember how you made them feel," he says. After graduation, he hopes to lead teams and cultivate environments where excellence is the standard.



In memory of **AL LEVIE**, who passed away in 1999, this President's Council Scholarship is named after the man who was instrumental in the initial fund-raising efforts of what is now known as The Collins College of Hospitality Management. Levie brought his leadership and expertise along with a vast network of industry executives to the young school in the '80s. The Al Levie Family scholarship was established to recognize high-achieving students in the hospitality management program.

In Memoriam  
**Al Levie**

**BENEFACTOR**



**Friends of the Al Levie Family**





## 2025-26 President's Scholars

### NISHANT PATEL

THE LUNDBERG FAMILY FOUNDATION President's Scholar (Graduate)

**Major:** Master's in Hospitality Management

**The Collins College of Hospitality  
Managements**

**Activities:** Club Management Association of  
America; anime sketches; watching animations;  
singing; driving

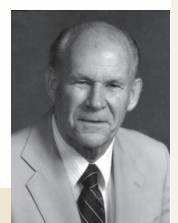
Nishant is determined to become a successful restaurateur and industry leader, building businesses that set new standards for innovation and customer experience. That vision has shaped his academic and professional path, beginning with a bachelor's degree in hospitality management at D.Y. Patil University in Mumbai and continuing at Cal Poly Pomona, where he is pursuing a Master of Science in Hospitality Management with a 4.0 GPA. His studies focus on advanced operations, strategic management and leadership, paired with extensive professional experience. He has managed live kitchen operations at Marriott, collaborated with Pepsi and Sysco to raise sales by 20% as an assistant chef, and served as a culinary development specialist at Cal Poly Pomona Enterprises Dining Services, where he engineered menus that cut food costs while elevating quality. He also launched a home-operated cloud kitchen, where he introduced sustainable practices that reduced waste by 15%. Looking ahead, he sees himself as an entrepreneur whose restaurants thrive while also creating opportunities to give back through charitable work.



**DEREK AND LANCE LUNDBERG** created this scholarship in memory of their father, **DR. DONALD LUNDBERG**, who founded the Hotel and Restaurant Management Program at Cal Poly Pomona in 1973. Dr. Lundberg was a beloved mentor, educator and prolific author, writing many books on tourism, restaurants, cooking, and industry leadership. The scholarship honors Dr. Lundberg's unwavering commitment to pay forward the support he himself received to assist students achieve their dreams.

In Memoriam  
**Dr. Donald  
Lundberg**

BENEFACTORS



**Derek and Lance Lundberg**





## 2025-26 President's Scholars

### MICHAEL ANTHONY MISER

ARTHUR M. BERMAN President's Scholar

**Major:** Political Science

**College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences**

**Activities:** Peer Mentor for Cal Poly Pomona Renaissance Scholars; Senior National Policy Intern with the National Foster Youth Institute; former congressional internship with the Office of Rep. Adam Smith; avid tennis player

Michael Miser is committed to addressing inequities he has witnessed firsthand and wants to shape policies that create lasting change. A former foster youth and U.S. Navy veteran, he brings both lived experience and discipline to his work as a leader and advocate for communities in need. He sees policy reform as his way to make a difference. Through internships with the Anthony and Jeanne Pritzker Family Foundation, the National Foster Youth Institute and the Office of Representative Adam Smith, he has worked on housing policies, educational initiatives and legislative measures to impact those in need. Serving as a peer mentor for the Renaissance Scholars program while working with communities across campus to promote inclusivity have prepared Michael to take on leadership roles to uplift others. He credits Professor Dan Lewis as a mentor who has "consistently opened doors that I previously did not know could open, encouraging me to step through every single one of them." Michael plans to earn a J.D., writing and enacting transformative policies, and eventually run for public office, carrying forward his belief that leadership is a responsibility to improve systems for those they serve.



**MICHAEL BERMAN** was formerly employed at Cal Poly Pomona as the vice president for instructional and information technology. His family and friends established this scholarship in honor of Mike's late father, Arthur M. Berman. Art Berman worked for the Los Angeles Times for more than 30 years; he served as a mentor for many people in the newspaper industry and strongly believed in encouraging young people to determine their own futures. He saw education, and higher education in particular, as the most important tool for self-development. The Arthur M. Berman scholarship will honor a student who is working toward a career in journalism or public service.

In Memoriam  
**Arthur M.  
Berman**

BENEFACTORS



**Ann Walker and A. Michael Berman**





## 2025-26 President's Scholars

### ELLIOT CYRA SUMMERS

BERNARD AND LUCIE BIDART President's Scholar

**Major:** Psychology

**College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences**

**Activities:** Kellogg Honors College; CSU Pre-Doctoral Scholar; Health Professions Track; Mental Process Lab Research Assistant; Gender and Violence Lab Research Assistant; THRIVE Lifeline Crisis Responder and Training Assistant; Tri-City Mental Health Peer Mentor and Service Learner; Bronco Young Democratic Socialists of America; Psi Chi

Elliot believes that one of Cal Poly Pomona's greatest strengths is its diversity and is proud to be a member of a community that values inclusion of diverse perspectives and lived experiences. Working as a research assistant in two CPP psychology labs and in community clinical settings has inspired Elliot to pursue a career as a psychologist, specifically to contribute to research and address issues that affect young adults who identify as members of the LGBT+ community. Advocacy for the marginalized fuels Elliot. As a leader in the Bronco YDSA, Elliot has led campaigns to promote on-campus mental health funding, housing rights and sustainability. Volunteering with a local community mental health wellness center has provided Elliot with training in peer mentorship, crisis intervention and direct experience to create spaces for individuals to feel heard and supported. Motivating Elliot along the way has been CPP psychology faculty who have "greatly influenced me to push myself to pursue a career that I am passionate about. They truly encourage and support me."



A partner with the law firm of Shernoff, Bidart & Darras in Claremont, **MICHAEL BIDART** is an alumnus with a degree in economics. It was Bidart's parents, Bernard and Lucie, who inspired him to be an attorney. His parents encouraged their sons to pursue college degrees, knowing firsthand the hardships of life without a college education. The Bernard and Lucie Bidart scholarship has been established to help others fulfill their own educational dreams.



BENEFACTORS

**Jeannette and Michael Bidart**





## 2025-26 President's Scholars

### SARA SEVEROVA

ANNETTE F. AND MORTON J. BLUMNER President's Scholar

**Majors:** Music

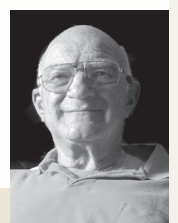
**College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences**

**Activities:** International Students Club; ASI BEAT Student Activities Assistant; Hip Hop dancer; songwriter, singer, producer

Watching the Disney Channel as a child, Sara imagined a future as a world-traveling musician, and she later took the leap of faith to move across the globe to fulfill that dream. A Czech international student, she chose Cal Poly Pomona for its proximity to the music industry as well as for the strength of its music program. She finds CPP a perfect match to earn a high-level education with real-world applications. Sara says that CPP is a space that nourishes her growth as an artist, and since arriving two years ago, she has learned career-relevant skills in music post-production, mixing, mastering, and recording while strengthening her collaboration, composing and performing skills. CPP also provided opportunities to connect with students in the Cesar E. Chavez Center for Higher Education and the International Students Club to help foster the sense of belonging she feels here. She envisions a future "on tour with dancers, a band, and a big show," saying "fulfilling dreams isn't something only the 'chosen ones' can do. The only thing it takes is a vision."



**DR. SIDNEY BLUMNER** established the Annette F. and Morton J. Blumner CLASS President's Council Scholarship in honor of his parents. Professor Blumner and his mother, Annette Blumner, have supported Cal Poly Pomona's College of Letters, Arts & Social Sciences for many years because of their belief in education and youth. "I am a product of public education," Blumner says. "I support public schools because they need help, and the students need help. People need to give back to society." This scholarship supports high performing students in the College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences, where he spent 33 years as a tenured faculty member, chair of the Department of Economics, and is now a donor.



BENEFACTORS

Annette F. and Sidney Blumner





## 2025-26 President's Scholars

### JAYANI BULLOCK

NICOLE CHRISTINE COTÉ President's Scholar

**Major:** English Applied Language Studies  
(Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages)

**College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences**

**Activities:** College Corps Fellow and Tutor, City of Ontario Library; volunteer English teacher, Laguna Beach Day Labor Center; Skill Discovery Quest; reading; painting and drawing

Blending a foundation in STEM with a passion for language, Jayani brings a distinctive academic trajectory to Cal Poly Pomona. With nine years of CAD experience, programming skills in multiple languages, and success as a VEX Robotics team manager competing at world championships, she developed strong technical, collaborative and leadership abilities early on. These experiences, along with her achievements in high school as a state-ranked wrestler who represented California at the national level, instilled a commitment to perseverance and excellence. Now pursuing a linguistics major, she is guided by curiosity and a desire to research how language intersects with emerging technologies like AI. Her academic interests focus on how large language models can influence language preservation, cultural diversity and equity in global contexts. As a College Corps Fellow and community tutor, she actively applies classroom learning in service to others. Looking ahead, Jayani aspires to graduate study, research, and a career as a professor dedicated to advancing understanding of language, technology and education.



The **COTÉ FAMILY** endowed this scholarship in honor of Nicole Coté, who passed away during her senior year at Cal Poly Pomona in 1999 at the age of 21. Nicole was the recipient of the 1999-2000 Lowell Overton President's Council Scholarship. Nicole felt strongly that academic scholarships should be awarded based on merit, and it is with that in mind that the Coté family has made this scholarship available to a very qualified student in the College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences.

In Memoriam  
**Nicole  
Christine Coté**

BENEFACTORS



**Marguerite and Robert Coté**





## 2025-26 President's Scholars

### SARA BARISI

HUGH and JUDY LA BOUNTY President's Scholar

**Major:** Sociology

**College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences**

**Activities:** Volunteer for local food drives; reading; journaling; learning new languages

Sara says that her desire to serve others has always been a guiding principle and has found that higher education provides the tools to affect positive change. She came to the United States from Iran as a first-generation college student, and through utilizing academic counseling, tutoring and student services, she continues to maintain a 4.0 GPA while navigating the challenges of a new culture. After arriving in the United States, she worked as student support assistant in the ESL department at Mt. SAC, speaking both English and Farsi to help students with registration and understanding course requirements. These experiences, combined with her volunteerism, taught her the importance of service to build strong communities, and she uses the study of sociology to tie her experiences together and use research and data to develop policies that can benefit the underserved. After graduation, she wants to earn her Ph.D. and focus on helping women, children, and immigrant communities and use her knowledge to connect people with the support they need.



**HUGH O. LA BOUNTY** joined the faculty of Cal Poly Pomona in 1953 as an instructor in the English department. He served as the university's third president and was responsible for transforming a regional institution into a major comprehensive university. President La Bount's legacy includes having established the President's Council in 1980 as well as the President's Scholars program in 1983. The Hugh and Judy La Bount scholarship is awarded to students who have distinguished themselves as excellent scholars in the College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences.



BENEFACTORS

**Hugh & Judy La Bount**





## 2025-26 President's Scholars

### KU'UIPO KALIPI

LOWELL OVERTON President's Scholar

**Major:** Psychology

**College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences**

**Activities:** Psi Chi; Economics Club; Hallyu Club; student assistant, Office of Student Conduct and Integrity; operations assistant, CPP's Children's Center; Kellogg Honors College

Ku Uipo grew up inspired by her parents whose advocacy for others and strong commitment to family fuel her own desire to make a difference. She chose to study psychology to encourage support for her Hawaiian community, saying "I have always heard the terms 'it's all in our head' or 'just suck it up.' These terms are slowly becoming ineffective for the current generation. By understanding the impacts of historical trauma, economic struggles and social issues specific to Hawaii, I think my upbringing in Hawaiian culture can help me connect with the local community and meet their needs." Working part-time on campus has also helped her to understand the importance of inclusive communities, and she wants to focus on organizational psychology to help each individual member of a workplace embrace their strengths as vital to the overall effectiveness of its team. After graduation, she wants to pursue a master's degree in industrial and organizational psychology and later a Ph.D. in counseling psychology.



**LOWELL OVERTON** is a friend of education. He credits his education at Cal Poly Pomona for his success as a nationally recognized real estate broker. As an active alumnus and founding member of the College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences alumni chapter, Lowell is engaged in the campus community and various alumni activities and programs. The Lowell Overton scholarship is intended to recognize exceptional students who are engaged in their communities and value their educational opportunities.



BENEFACTOR

Lowell Overton





## 2025-26 President's Scholars

### MONA HASSANZADEH

BERNARD AND LUCIE BIDART President's Scholar (Graduate)

**Major:** Master's in English  
(Rhetoric and Composition)

**College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences**

**Activities:** Learning Resource Center writing tutor;  
Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society; youth  
committee leader for local mosque

Mona is passionate about the transformative power of language, inspired by how the right string of words can make someone feel seen and understood. Her journey into studying English began unexpectedly, when a book recommendation at the start of college shifted her aspirations from architecture to writing. As a writing tutor at Cal Poly Pomona's Learning Resource Center and a member of the Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society, Mona channels that passion into helping others find their voice. At CPP, Mona has served as a teaching assistant for composition and rhetoric, leading her own classes and discovering the influence of educators on shaping student confidence. She has co-presented research at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research, exploring the connection between heritage language and cultural identity, and she serves as fiction editor for Pomona Valley Review, where she helps showcase diverse literary voices. In the future, she would love to return to CPP as an instructor and is grateful to her parents for teaching her that "if you strive and work for what you believe, anything can be achieved."



A partner with the law firm of Shernoff, Bidart & Darras in Claremont, **MICHAEL BIDART** is an alumnus with a degree in economics. It was Bidart's parents, Bernard and Lucie, who inspired him to be an attorney. His parents encouraged their sons to pursue college degrees, knowing firsthand the hardships of life without a college education. The Bernard and Lucie Bidart scholarship has been established to help others fulfill their own educational dreams.



BENEFACTOR

Jeannette and Michael Bidart





## 2025-26 President's Scholars

### MAIRANY ANAYA

NORMAN WILLIAMSON JR. FAMILY President's Scholar (Graduate)

**Major:** Master's in Public Administration

**College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences**

**Activities:** American Planning Association, Inland Empire chapter; Women in Transportation, Inland Empire chapter; Multimodal Mobility Administrator, County of San Bernardino; travel; reading

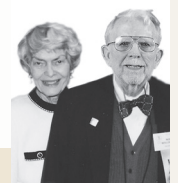
For Mairany, the path to public administration began with a desire to make her community stronger and more connected. Growing up in the Inland Empire and as the first in her family to attend school in the United States, she understands how public service can feel distant from the people it's meant to serve. As an undergraduate, she was drawn to work that could make a real difference, especially for people who shared her lived experiences. That led her to a CivicSpark Fellowship at the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority, where she helped address sustainability and transit equity. She later joined the agency full-time as a multimodal mobility administrator, developing programs to make public transit more affordable, accessible and environmentally sustainable. Mairany believes transit can reduce pollution, fight climate change and connect communities. Through the American Planning Association and Women's Transportation Seminar, she mentors young professionals of color, guided by her parents' example and her belief that "if they could build a life in a country where they didn't speak the language, I can do anything I set my mind to," turning perseverance into pathways for others.



**NORMAN WILLIAMSON JR.** was the son of W.K. Kellogg's only daughter, Elizabeth Kellogg Williamson. His ability to retain and document the history of the Kellogg family was one of Williamson's legacies to his family and the university. Because of his active involvement with Cal Poly Pomona, the Norman Williamson, Jr. Family scholarship was established to honor those dedicated students who are committed to making a difference in their communities.

In Memoriam  
**Norman  
Williamson Jr.**

BENEFACTORS



**Helen and Norman Williamson Jr.**





## 2025-26 President's Scholars

### AREESHA IMTIAZ

DR. ANDREW G. CHONG President's Scholar

**Major:** Computer Science

**College of Science**

**Activities:** Social advisor, sheCodes; Muslim Student Association; Kellogg Honors College; tutor, MEP-WISE; travel; cooking; working out

Areesha considers computer science magical as it provides the tools to push boundaries and provide endless possibilities for solving problems. In summer 2024, she conducted undergraduate research to enhance the safety of self-driving cars, comparing CARLA and Unity platforms for visualizing self-driving car navigations under text-based inputs to study how to best provide real-time instructions in critical situations. This experience not only strengthened her technical skills but also reinforced her interest in technology for social improvement. As an international student, she is proud that she can navigate new cultures and systems while balancing academics and homesickness, saying "it's not easy being far from home, but I've learned to carry my roots with me and grow through every challenge." Areesha's inspiration is her mother, who models that "true strength lies in showing up for others even in your most difficult moments." Areesha hopes to work as a full-stack software engineer and to complete a Ph.D. in computer science in order to mentor the next generation of technologists.



**DR. ANDREW CHONG** knows how important it is to see things clearly. As a successful optometrist in the San Gabriel Valley, he owns and operates two businesses. With a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering, a master's degree in business administration and a doctorate in optometry, Chong values the educational opportunities provided to him. The Dr. Andrew G. Chong scholarship is awarded to recognize exceptional students from any major.



BENEFACTOR

Dr. Andrew Chong





## 2025-26 President's Scholars

### DANIEL LEE

SIU FAMILY President's Scholar

**Major:** Biology

**College of Science**

**Activities:** President, Korean-American Scientists and Engineering Association; emergency medical technician

Daniel Lee's path to medicine began during EMT training, where he discovered that understanding biology is essential in critical care. At Cal Poly Pomona, he has pursued this passion with focus and excellence, maintaining a high GPA while gaining hands-on experience as a certified EMT. Each patient encounter has reinforced his commitment to emergency medicine, sharpening his ability to respond quickly, think clearly and act with empathy. Inspired by his grandfather's resilience and determination, Daniel is excited for the future, saying "in 10 years, I see myself as an emergency physician, providing care in critical moments and serving communities with resilience and compassion." A scientist at heart, he even approaches coffee brewing with curiosity and precision, treating variables like water minerality and grind size as experiments. For Daniel, this balance of rigor and curiosity defines both his academic journey and his vision for medicine: to serve with skill, compassion and an unwavering drive to make a difference.



The **SIU FAMILY's** involvement with education is longstanding, as evidenced by their generous contributions to the university. Both retired, Annie was an orthodontist and Tim, who passed away, was an anesthesiologist. The Sius enjoyed successful careers in their respective professions. The student who aspires to enrich quality of life through science will be awarded the Siu Family scholarship.



BENEFACTORS

**Drs. Annie Chin and Tim K. Siu**





## 2025-26 President's Scholars

### LIZBETH VALDIVIA-JAUREGUI

KIM FAMILY President's Scholar (Graduate)

**Major:** Master's in Kinesiology

#### College of Science

**Activities:** Growing Roots Community Garden volunteer; church choir member; Aztec dancer; certified substitute teacher; College Board SAT exam proctor; high school girls' head track & field coach

Physical education gives Lizbeth the opportunity to combine her passions for fitness, the outdoors and teaching. In elementary school, spending time playing tag and running on grass sparked her connection to nature, and in high school, she found participating in track and field nurtured her mental, emotional and physical health. Now coaching track at her high school allows Lizbeth to help positively impact athletes to develop similar mindsets. Lizbeth's work with community gardens serves as an additional connection to well-being, and she hopes to serve as a bridge connecting students to our environment. After completing her secondary teaching credential subplan, she envisions teaching PE in the Inland Empire and hosting wellness/fitness workshops with local community organizations in order to create a health justice after-school club for high school students. Ultimately, Lizbeth says that she wants to build a "strong fitness community with her students and their families that focuses on authenticity, community care and health equity" for communities that may have limited access to green spaces.



Alumnus **KEITH SOON KIM** and his wife, **SUNG**, have long supported Cal Poly Pomona. As a math and electrical engineering double major, Keith valued his educational opportunities and actively participated in campus clubs and programs. The Kim family demonstrates its commitment to education by providing opportunities for other students to succeed at Cal Poly Pomona. Outstanding engineering and science students are recognized by the Kim Family scholarship.



BENEFACTORS

Sung and Keith Soon Kim