



*Creating greater equity in higher education for low-income students*

Dr. Marilyn A. Winkleby, President and CEO

<http://accesstoachievement.org/>



**We are pleased to provide an update of our 12 month activities in the Bay Area and the Central Valley for 2023/2024**

We have had a successful year with new collaborations, activities led by graduates of our programs, and additional college workshops in response to parents' requests. We have verified that we can manage Access to Achievement from Oregon and provide funding to both California and Oregon. 501 Commons in Portland Oregon that serves to amplify the strengths of non-profits provided a free hour long consultation and a review of our bylaws. To date, our only funding has been to California, and we anticipate that California will remain the emphasis of our funding in the foreseeable future.

As always, we continued to provide laptop computers to first-generation students admitted to college who have no computers. This year we funded 12 undocumented students from Mountain View High School. For our small, isolated towns in the Central Valley, we awarded 26 laptops to students from Riverdale High School, 7 to Caruthers/Raisin City, and 3 to Laton. For the first time in five years, Riverdale has a number of young men who are going to college and 7 were awarded laptops.

And we added new activities! We reached over 100 high school students from Riverdale, Laton, and Caruthers/Raisin City for Leadership Day in February 2024. This day reached out to students who are not traditional leaders and immersed them in advocacy activities on how to become involved in their schools and communities. Given its success, we plan to repeat this next year, adding two more rural schools, Selma and Fowler.

We expanded our workshops on college preparedness to parents in Riverdale to include a panel of college students who are graduates of Riverdale. The workshops have had such a high turnout that we plan to offer 9 workshops in 2024-2025, all in Spanish as well as English. The workshops are offered after the parents return from working in the fields and at the dairies. College workshops are being offered at Laton and Caruthers High Schools as well.

We also offered CPR certification classes to students from Riverdale, Laton, and Caruthers/Raisin City. The schools did not have funds for these trainings but recognized that if CPR is performed, a victim's chance of surviving can double, or even triple. (Oregon requires that every student be trained in CPR before graduation). The students were enthusiastic and highly engaged in this hands on certification.

As we begin another school year, we appreciate our supporters of Access to Achievement who believe in our talented students and the teachers who support them. We will continue to reach out to students who are not eligible for traditional scholarships. We are helping to change the face of our rural Latino towns in the Central Valley, where we see an increasing number of young women and men graduating from college, returning to their communities to mentor younger students, and accept jobs in the local schools, clinics, and government.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Marilyn Winkleby'.

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**A return of Riverdale alumni, now in college, to share their college experiences at a parent workshop**



**Our students graduate and return to work!**



**Students earn their CPR certificates**



**The 26 Riverdale Computer Scholarship Awardees—all first generation, going to college--now we have young men!**

