



Creating greater equity in higher education

Dr. Marilyn A. Winkleby, President and CEO

<http://accesstoachievement.org/>

Our mission is to enhance academic success among low-income and underrepresented students and families by providing funding for their unmet educational needs.



Our milestones for 2025—what we accomplished:

- **100% of Donations Directly Support Students and Programs**

Every dollar we receive goes straight to our programs and scholarship recipients—maximizing impact. Most contributions are matched, doubling donor generosity.

- **New Board Members Strengthen our Central Valley Presence**

We welcomed new board members Eduardo Gonzalez, BS, and Maggie Gonzalez BS, from Riverdale, CA who will represent our programs in the Central Valley. Long-time advisors, Drs. Jed Kazel and Elizabeth Ward, and Gregory Vaughn joined our advisory committee.

- **\$36,000 for Scholarships for College Bound Students**

We supported 36 college bound students in the Bay Area and Central Valley with \$1,000 scholarships for educational needs. Those at **Mountain View High School** arrived in the US within the last 5-7 years, have learned English, and are now excelling in their high school studies. They are ineligible for most scholarships because of their country of birth. Those from **Riverdale High School** are from a town of 3,000, 80% Latino, and 30 miles south of Fresno. Most parents work in the fields or at the dairies. In the six years that Access to Achievement has supported these students, there has been an increase in students succeeding in college after having help with college admissions, college statements, and financial aid. After graduating from college, these students are returning to mentor younger students and offer college admissions workshops for parents.

- **\$100,000 Matched Endowment Completed for Riverdale High School**

We reached our goal for a fully matched \$100,000 endowment that will provide **\$1,000 college scholarships in perpetuity** for Riverdale High School students (Central Valley). The endowment is named in honor of Consuelo Velasco who taught at Riverdale for 30 years and was one of the first teachers to advocate for students to pursue college educations. The endowment is administered through the Central Valley Community Foundation.

- **Lemoore Community College \$100,000 Endowment Nears Halfway Mark**

We are nearly 50% of the way toward completing a **\$100,000 matched endowment** that will provide **ongoing \$1,000 emergency funding** for Lemoore Community College students in need (Central Valley). Lemoore has been recognized as the Best Community College/Trade School in Kings County, and is a feeder college for Riverdale High School students.

- **Technology Access Expanded for Lemoore Community College Students**

We funded **15 new loaner laptops and hotspots** enabling students without computers to access essential technology over the next five years. Demand far exceeded supply, and all loaner computers were quickly checked out each semester, with students consistently waitlisted, leaving many struggling to complete their coursework as 75% of textbooks are online. Maintained by the college's IT department, these computers will serve approximately **100 full-time students over a five year period**—removing a key barrier to academic success.

- **Exploring New Partnership with Cal State Sacramento for Student Emergency Grants**

We are working with Dr. Mary Maguire, Dean of Health and Human Services at CSU Sacramento who oversees 8,000 students (half with significant financial need), to establish a **matched emergency-grant fund**, earmarked for students without legal status, those from migrant and seasonal farm working backgrounds, those who have been incarcerated, and other student populations in need, to help them graduate in a timely manner.

- **New Outreach to Central Oregon**

We expanded our outreach and support to Central Oregon with the Latino Community Association that serves **6,000 clients** in Bend, Redmond, Madrus and Prineville.

We are a stable fund and looking forward to years of fulfilling our mission of supporting underserved students, families, and communities. Access to Achievement was designated as a 501 (c) (3) in 2017. It has grown in income and disbursements over the years, as we have funded different initiatives in the Bay Area and Central Valley to evaluate needs, costs, and impact. Access is the successor of the successful Stanford Medical Youth Science Program (SMYSP) that Dr. Winkleby founded in 1988. SMYSP has supported almost 900 low-income students interested in the health professions through its tuition free on campus 5-week program. Sustained in part through its 1.5 million dollar endowment, it is housed in Stanford's Office of Diversity in Medical Education.

We are excited about the impact that donations from new and established donors are making, allowing us to serve more talented students who are often overlooked in our educational system and to deepen the services we provide. Your support also strengthens our programs and inspires others to contribute.

Warm regards,



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26 Riverdale High School scholarship recipients, 2025

