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Issue #3

Greetings from The SUHI Foundation!!

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Opening Letter	1	<p>It’s my favorite time of year: graduation season!!! Earlier this month, approximately 600 Sweetwater High School seniors graduated. It was yet again a beautiful evening of celebration for our old SUHI at this 117th commencement ceremony. Seeing these students, including the 46 who have become our newest SUHI Scholars through our scholarship program, walk proudly across the stage to receive their diploma filled me with both joy and hope; I know they will embark on an exciting new phase of growth and learning – whatever their path may be.</p> <p>Since May, we’ve also been hearing from our Class of 2014 SUHI Scholars who open a new chapter by reaching the critical milestone of graduating with their bachelor’s degree. Nearly all are “first gen”, representing the first generation in their families to achieve this goal, and a majority come from low-income households and immigrant backgrounds. With their accomplishment arrives the promise of a life that many never quite imagined. I have a motivational poster I still read often which begins with the phrase “LIVE THE LIFE YOU’VE ALWAYS DREAMED OF”...but the reality is that <i>many of us</i> didn’t even have a sense for what was possible. How could we dream of something that was completely unfamiliar? With the work we’ve done through The SUHI Foundation, and particularly with your support, I am proud to say that we are not only allowing our SUHI Scholars to dream – but also helping to make those dreams a <i>reality</i>.</p> <p>Let’s continue this important work together and make an impact in the lives of students who deserve to dream and succeed.</p> <p>With deep gratitude and hope,</p> <p>Martha Juarez Executive Director SUHI c/o 1995</p>
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2018 Scholarship Awards Ceremony

For the 12th year, The SUHI Foundation awarded scholarships to students at Sweetwater High School. This year, 25 scholarships were presented to the Class of 2018 graduating seniors, totaling a record-breaking \$106,000.

The SUHI Foundation also administers the scholarship program of its close partner, the Morgan Family Foundation, which awarded 24 scholarships, accounting for an additional \$208,000, as well as a full cost-of-attendance scholarship, with an estimated value of \$230,000, to one student who will be attending the University of Colorado at Boulder. This scholarship was first awarded in 2005, and since then, the Morgan Family Foundation has supported multiple SUHI Scholars.

The scholarships that were presented range from \$500 to \$20,000, including those which are payable over four years. This year, The SUHI Foundation expanded the scholarships available, with the introduction of two new awards that were presented in memory of former SUHI teachers - Mrs. Patricia Peace Browning and Ms. Laura Charles. With the support of alumni and other community members who have established scholarship funds, The SUHI Foundation continues to fulfill its mission by funding deserving university and community college-bound students in their attainment of a Bachelor's Degree. To date, it has granted over \$800,000 to 127 SUHI Scholars, while the Morgan Family Foundation has also funded over \$2 million since 2001.

To see the complete list of all the awarded SUHI Scholars, click [here](#).



In Their Own Words, Messages from Our SUHI Scholars:



"This scholarship has come with much more than a financial aid offer: it has opened the doors to a second family of caring people. A family that seeks to be there to support and celebrate the great fruits of hard work to come, together. I have really enjoyed this sensation and am eager to be part of this community. In four years from now there will be a new Chemical and Biological Engineer in town, eager to begin achieving what's beyond."

- Rafael Morales, SUHI Class of 2017, University of Colorado Boulder, Chemical and Biological Engineering

"...The Human Development courses were much different. I loved what I was learning and once again loved going to school. I enjoyed the time I spent studying and doing homework and it all fell into place. One of the courses I took was for career development where I had the opportunity to hear about many possible careers and graduate school opportunities. I wanted to do some career exploration so I interviewed with ACES, a company that works with children in the Autism Spectrum. I was hired on and I am now a Registered Behavior Technician. I have decided I will be pursuing graduate school to study Occupational therapy or Physical therapy. I am currently using my summer and taking an extra course at Palomar College during the semester to complete the pre-requisites needed for the graduate programs. Overall the second semester went very well. Many opportunities opened and I networked with people who would be happy to extend their help if I ever need it."



- Magaly Cervantes, SUHI Class of 2014, CSUSM, Human Development

Class of '76 Scholarship Fund Craft Fair



This past April, the SUHI Class of 1976 Scholarship Fund held its first Craft Fair at Sweetwater High School in the Old Gym to raise monies to award scholarships for graduating seniors. The Craft Fair participants consisted of more than 25 different vendors ranging from hand-made jewelry, to services like threading and henna, to independent retailers of essential oils and branded clothing. The Craft Fair is one of the many ways that the Class of '76 raises funds to continue to support students in their pursuit of higher education.

Since 2016, the Class of '76 has awarded multiple scholarships to deserving graduating seniors through The SUHI Foundation. They had the initial goal of awarding a single \$1,000 scholarship and they have surpassed this by raising enough money to award a total of \$4,000 in each of the last two years. The Class of '76 Scholarship Fund Committee is one of the first groups of donors that has expanded its availability of scholarship opportunities to community college and trade school-bound scholars. The committee consists of Ms. Alicia Degracia, Ms. Jill Milligan, Ms. Yvette Ruan, Ms. Marisela Salas Crabb, Ms. Maria Villegas Saludares, and Ms. Kathy Hernandez Leyba. They have all diligently worked to give back to the SUHI community, hosting fundraisers such as A SUHi Fiesta, Bunco Night, Breakfast at the American Legion, and now the Craft Fair. Congratulations to the Class of '76 on their successful first Craft Fair fundraising event!

If you are interested in participating in the next one, which is in the works for this Fall sometime around Homecoming, please email suhi76scholarship@gmail.com – volunteers, vendors, and attendees are all welcome!

We Need Your Help!

We are actively looking for volunteers and committee members for both short-term efforts and longer-term commitments with The SUHI Foundation. If you are interested or if you would like more information, please provide us with your contact information in the following Google Form, or simply email us at info@thesuhifoundation.org. Thank you!

<https://goo.gl/forms/B4zECij4BxN7R75c2>



SUHI Scholar Alumni Spotlight

Ms. Monica Fandino is a SUHI Class of 2014 graduate, who attended SDSU as a Business Administration/Accounting major. At SDSU, she not only excelled academically, but her character also evolved as she pushed herself out of her comfort zone by becoming more committed within her campus. She took part in career-focused student organizations, which required her to strengthen her networking skills, to connect with other accounting students and business professionals. This was something she was not accustomed to, but it paved her way to creating new friendships and connections, while developing her professional career path and rapport with potential employers. Last Summer, she held an administrative internship position with TVA, a private equity company, which taught her accounting practices and other facets of business. She states “It [her undergraduate career] has simultaneously been a long and a short journey filled with a lot of challenges that have helped me grow professionally and personally, but overall helped me become a better person.” Monica also added, “This scholarship has significantly aided me financially and personally...it has enabled me to worry less about how to afford college and focus more on my academics. Personally it has given me pride in myself knowing that I worked tirelessly through high school to get to where I am now. This reminder gave me the motivation through college when the workload and everything else in life was too much to handle.” Monica graduated SDSU this past May, and her future career plans involve working for an accounting firm, obtaining her CPA license and attending graduate school for an MBA. Congratulations, Monica, on all of your accomplishments!

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