Achievement Rewards for College Scientists

Northern California Chapter

2024–2025

Annual Report

Table of Contents

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MISSION

MISSION STATEMENT: ARCS Foundation advances science and technology in the United States by providing financial awards to academically outstanding U.S. citizens studying to complete degrees in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medical research.

ARCS STORY

ARCS STORY: In 1958, a group of intrepid women in Los Angeles took on the challenge of the "space race" and created ARCS Foundation, funding gifted science, medical and engineering students to help re-establish our country's leadership in science. Today the challenge is achieving breakthroughs in biotechnology, regenerative medicine, and clean energy to secure our country's future. Our answer remains the same: when we support brilliant young scientists, we invest in America's future in a powerful way.

Every dollar contributed to ARCS Foundation's Scholar Awards Fund goes directly to students selected by their universities for their merit and the caliber of their research. The impact is profound: ARCS scholars appreciate our belief in them as much as the financial help that we provide.

ARCS has 15 chapters in the United States and has awarded over $142 million to more than 12,000 scholars since 1958.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER: The Northern California Chapter of ARCS Foundation was established in 1970 and and has funded more than 3,216 Scholar Awards totaling nearly $28 million. For the 2025-2026 academic year, the Chapter distributed $1,175,000 to *74* scholars attending seven prestigious Northern California universities.

ARCS IS UNIQUE

* ARCS is 100% FOCUSED: ARCS is the largest private membership organization in the United States focusing on support to the most promising U.S. science scholars.
* ARCS grants are 100% FLEXIBLE: ARCS award recipients decide how best to use ARCS funds to pursue their academic research efforts.
* ARCS is 100% VOLUNTEER: ARCS members donate their time, talents and financial resources in order to foster academic excellence and research in the sciences, mathematics, medicine and engineering.
* ARCS is 100% EFFECTIVE: 100% of all donations to the annual Scholar Awards Campaign are directed to the best and brightest scholars at our nation's top research universities.

Recipient Schools of ARCS Foundation Grants

ARCS FOUNDATION, INC. can boast of alumni who have achieved distinction in their fields and are making significant contributions to the strength and leadership of our country.

The scholar awards program is administered by the academic institutions to which ARCS chapters make allocations. Recipient institutions are approved by the National Board of ARCS FOUNDATION, INC. according to exacting standards.

Following is a list of the recipient schools of ARCS Foundation scholar awards for the fifteen chapters which make grants.

Atlanta Chapter
Emory University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Morehouse College
University of Georgia (Athens)

Colorado Chapter
Colorado School of Mines
Colorado State University
University of Colorado at Boulder
University of Colorado at Colorado Springs
University of Colorado at Denver
University of Colorado School of Medicine

Honolulu Chapter
University of Hawaii, Manoa

Illinois Chapter
Illinois Institute of Technology
Loyola University of Chicago, Stritch School of Medicine
Northwestern University
The University of Chicago
The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Los Angeles Chapter
California Institute of Technology
Harvey Mudd College
Pomona College
University of California, Los Angeles:Brain Research Institute
University of Southern California: Keck School of Medicine
Viterbi School of Engineering

Metropolitan Washington Chapter
Georgetown University
The George Washington University
The Johns Hopkins University
University of Maryland, College Park
University of Virginia

Minnesota Chapter
University of Minnesota

Northern California Chapter
San Francisco State University
Stanford University
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Davis
University of California, Merced
University of California, San Francisco
University of California, Santa Cruz

Orange County Chapter
University of California, Irvine

Oregon Chapter
Oregon Health and Science University
Oregon State University
University of Oregon

Phoenix Chapter
Arizona State University
Northern Arizona University
University of Arizona

Pittsburg Chapter
Carnegie Mellon University
University of Pittsburgh

San Diego Chapter
San Diego State University
Scripps Research Institute
University of California, San Diego
University of San Diego

Seattle Chapter
University of Washington
Washington State University

Utah Chapter
University of Utah

University Leadership

ARCS Foundation Northern California Chapter appreciates its strong alliance with each of the universities receiving award funds. We hereby salute the presidents and chancellors of these, our area's finest universities, and list their names together with the departments in which scholars were funded this year.

Dr. Lynn Mahoney, President
San Francisco State University

Department of Astronomy & Astrophysics
Department of Biology (Cellular & Molecular)
Department of Biology (Integrative)
Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry
Department of Computer Science (Statistical Data Science)
Department of Geography (Resource Management & Environmental Planning)
Department of Mathematics

Dr. Jonathan Levin, President
Stanford University

Department of Aeronautics & Astronautics
Department of Biology
Department of Chemical Engineering
Department of Earth & Planetary Sciences
Department of Energy Science & Engineering
Department of Materials Science & Engineering
Department of Mathematics
Department of Physics
Department of Statistics

Dr. Rich Lyons, Chancellor
University of California, Berkeley

Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering
Energy & Resources Group
Department of Environmental Science, Policy & Management
Department of Industrial Engineering & Operations Research
Department of Statistics

Dr. Gary S. May, Chancellor
University of California, Davis

Animal Behavior Graduate Group
Center for Neuroscience
Department of Agricultural & Environmental Chemistry
Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering
Department of Biomedical Engineering
Department of Chemistry
Department of Computer Science
Department of Molecular, Cellular & Integrative Physiology
Department of Pharmacology & Toxicology
Ecology Graduate Group
Geology Graduate Group
Integrative Pathobiology Graduate Group
Population Biology Graduate Group

Dr. Juan Sánchez Muñoz, Chancellor
University of California, Merced

Department of Chemistry
Department of Cognitive & Information Sciences
Department of Environmental Systems
Department of Physics

Dr. Sam Hawgood, Chancellor
University of California, San Francisco

Departments of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
Department of Bioengineering
Department of Biological & Medical Informatics
Department of Biomedical Sciences
Department of Biophysics
Department of Developmental & Stem Cell Biology
Department of Neuroscience
Department of Oral & Craniofacial Sciences
Department of Pharmaceutical Science & Pharmacogenomics

Dr. Cynthia Larive, Chancellor
University of California, Santa Cruz

Department of Astronomy & Astrophysics
Department of Biomolecular Engineering
Department of Chemistry
Department of Computational Media
Department of Earth & Planetary Sciences
Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology
Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering
Department of Molecular, Cell & Developmental Biology
Department of Ocean Sciences
Department of Physics
Science Communication Master's Program

San Francisco State University

Master's Program Scholars

Department of Astronomy & Astrophysics
Department of Biology (Cellular & Molecular)
Department of Biology (Integrative)
Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry
Department of Computer Science (Statistical Data Science)
Department of Geography (Resource Management & Environmental Planning)
Department of Mathematics

Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry

Seiham Alansary

ARCS Foundation Scholar

Seiham's research explores how to better support students in their study habits outside the classroom for chemistry, specifically aimed at exam preparation. With four years of experience teaching general chemistry, she is passionate about fostering inclusive, community-centered learning. Connected to her research, she currently works as an Instructional Student Assistant in SFSU's studio-style general chemistry series, where she supports student engagement through collaborative, student-centered instruction. Outside the classroom, Seiham enjoys reading, cooking, and connecting with her Palestinian heritage—most recently learning to make Nabulsi cheese, a staple from home that isn't easily accessible here in the West.

Department of Chemistry

Marcello Garbo

Clark and Carol Mitchel Scholar

Marcello has a strong interest in materials chemistry and nanoscience. His current research focuses on synthesizing near-infrared emissive quantum dots for tumor imaging and solar energy applications. An accomplished presenter, Marcello has shared his work at national ACS conferences and earned top honors at research symposia. He is the recipient of several prestigious awards, including an SEO Fellowship, McKinney Award, SACNAS Travel Award, and a $10,000 Climate Action Fellowship. Outside of research, Marcello is passionate about science communication and aims to pursue a Ph.D. in Chemistry in Fall 2026.

Department of Biology (Cellular & Molecular)

Rizelle Jugarap

ARCS Foundation Scholar

Rizelle is committed to using science to benefit all communities, and especially scientifically underserved communities. She has realized this commitment through academic excellence and leveraging of prestigious awards to link basic science to community health as both an undergraduate and master's student in the Health & Equity Research (HER) Lab. As an undergraduate she earned Summa Cum Laude honors for her academic excellence, and participated in research as a Genentech Scholar to determine the efficacy of an educational intervention for urban middle school students. The biological goal of the intervention was to promote telomere health. Towards this goal, Rizelle's work was pivotal to a publication illuminating educational approaches for remedying toxic school environments to protect telomeres of vulnerable students. She has extended this work as an Agent of Change Fellow and master's student by leading research efforts to study a nature-based intervention aimed at protecting the telomere ends of BIPOC college students who are experiencing unprecedented levels of stress in these uncertain times. In this work she uses community-engaged research approaches, molecular techniques, data science and her insider knowledge as a fellow BIPOC college student to benefit this scientifically underserved community.

Department of Geography
(Resource Management & Environmental Planning)

Fiona Lawler

Robert Lansdon Endowment Fund Scholar

Fiona is interested in the intersectionality of humans and the environment, and her desire is to educate and inspire others to take sustainable action. Her research focuses on determining the success and sustainability of the San Pedro Creek restoration project in Pacifica by analyzing the stream channel dimension, whether the restoration structures are still functioning as intended, and whether natural log and coarse sediment recruitment could support a process-based restoration. She also enjoys teaching the Introduction to Environmental Science lab at SFSU and being an embedded tutor for Geography classes at her former community college where she gets to share her knowledge and passion about the subject with others. After completing her master's degree, Fiona would like to pursue a career in teaching. Her passion for geography is something that she aims to pass along to future generations.

Department of Biology (Integrative)

Jessica Martin

Jack Lund Endowment Fund Scholar

Jessica is interested in mechanisms of evolution, including how biodiversity is created and maintained at a population level and how environmental changes affect populations. Her research aims to sequence and assemble the first reference genome for the Galapagos endemic lava gull and conduct vital population genetic analyses to explore questions surrounding effective population size and population subdivision to inform species conservation and management. Jessica is an avid birdwatcher and loves to spend time outside with friends and family.

Department of Biology (Integrative)

Jaden McCaffrey

Arlene Inch Scholar

Jaden is interested in avian diversity, adaptive radiation, and how invasive species have impacted island ecosystems. Her thesis focuses on identifying sub-fossil material in the caves of different islands in the Galapagos. Her research will contribute to historic species assemblage knowledge of the archipelago and will aid in long-term restoration and rewilding of the islands. Jaden enjoys wildlife watching, adventurous hikes and spending time with her family.

Department of Biology (Cellular & Molecular)

Arthur Ramos Reyes

ARCS Foundation Scholar

Arthur investigates how exposure to toxic metals, such as lithium and magnesium, impacts yeast cells' ability to perform internal transport, specifically how it impacts vacuole inheritance in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. The vacuole, which shares homology with the mammalian lysosome, serves as a model for understanding how organelle dynamics function in eukaryotic cells under stress conditions. Arthur has been active in learning the techniques, such as microbial cell culture, yeast cell genetics, and fluorescence microscopy, and the background required to understand his experiments and push them in new directions.

Department of Statistical Data Science

Christopher Randall

Joan Diehl McCauley Endowment Fund Scholar

Chris's research is in the field of algebraic statistics, a growing discipline where techniques from algebraic geometry, a deep and mature field within mathematics, is used for purposes of data analysis and statistical inference. The required background in algebraic geometry is the primary reason for the difficulty in entering this field. Fortunately, Chris is bringing his advanced knowledge in this field as an extraordinary student and his willingness to explore challenging mathematical ideas. His research in the maximum likelihood of algebraic Gaussian models shows the potential of unearthing deep connections between seemingly distinct fields of algebraic geometry and statistics.

Department of Biology (Cellular & Molecular)

Madison Raub

ARCS Foundation Scholar

Madison is specializing in organelle inheritance in the Riggs Lab. Her current project focuses on understanding how mitochondria, an essential organelle for cell function, are inherited during cell division using the model organism *Drosophila melanogaster*. During her time at SF State, Madison has been a supplemental instructor for cell biology, a STEM tutor on campus, a volunteer researcher, vice president of the associated biology students club, and a lab instructor for human physiology. Beyond academics, she is an active mentor in the lab and uses her resources to recruit undergraduates who are interested in research to gain hands-on lab experiences. In her free time, she enjoys staying active in the gym, painting, and spending time with friends and family. Madison builds community wherever she goes and combines her creativity and curiosity both in and out of the lab.

Department of Astronomy & Astrophysics

Ryan Thong

Debbie Wreyford Scholar

Ryan's research contributes directly to the Giant Radio Array for Neutrino Detection (GRAND) collaboration, an international team focused on identifying the sources of ultra-high-energy cosmic rays and neutrinos. His research addresses the critical challenge of accurately reconstructing energy fluence from radio signals produced by particle cascades, particularly under low signal-to-noise ratios. Traditional standard methods often introduce biases and underestimate uncertainties, leading to arbitrary exclusion of valuable data. Ryan is addressing this issue by developing a Bayesian noise characterization approach, which precisely estimates uncertainties and reduces biases. His method, which focuses on frequency-domain analysis, improves signal characterization and removes the need for arbitrary data exclusion. This work is integral to GRAND's mission, enhancing our ability to detect cosmogenic neutrinos and cosmic rays to understand their astrophysical origins.

Department of Biology (Integrative)

Jakob Woodall

ARCS Foundation Scholar

Jakob is a first-generation college student broadly interested in herpetofauna conservation and research. His interest in herpetofauna is life-long, and he has published several peer-reviewed natural history notes on species such as the Pacific newt salamander and the California kingsnake. His master's research investigates the impacts of a deadly fungal disease on the western spadefoot toad *(Spea hammondii*), a threatened species endemic to the central valley of California. Jakob also mentors SFSU undergraduates who are conducting conservation projects on a cryptic legless lizard *(Aniella pulchra)*, and a high alpine salamander *(Hydromantes platycephalus)*. Outside of research, Jakob enjoys playing board games, new restaurants, and local markets.

Stanford University

Ph.D. Program Scholars

Department of Aeronautics & Astronautics
Department of Biology
Department of Chemical Engineering
Department of Earth & Planetary Sciences
Department of Energy Science & Engineering
Department of Materials Science & Engineering
Department of Mathematics
Department of Physics
Department of Statistics

Department of Chemical Engineering

Alexandra (Lexie) Adams
ARCS Foundation Scholar

Lexie is a chemical engineer drawn to the challenge of designing molecular tools for better healthcare. She is studying short, single-stranded DNA molecules called aptamers which exhibit a unique ability to form complex tertiary structures and bind to molecules, much like antibodies. Using aptamers, she hopes to solve challenges in biosensing and diagnostic applications by developing novel biorecognition elements. Alexandra earned her B.S. in Chemical Engineering from Miami University of Ohio, about an hour north of where she grew up outside of Cincinnati. She was involved in undergraduate research that engineered *E. coli* to produce psilocybin. Outside of her academics, she enjoys traveling, wine tasting, and running.

Department of Physics

Christina Bell
ARCS Stanford Graduate Fellow

Christina has a deep interest in the development and characterization of superconducting quantum devices for applications in astrophysics and quantum computing. As an undergraduate she spent two summers conducting research at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory where she characterized an unconventional thin-film superconducting material for applications in THz device technology. In addition, she has worked at Arizona State University's CXFEL Lab on the low-level RF system to enable the world's first compact X-ray free electron laser. Christina is also dedicated to extending opportunities to underrepresented students in physics; she co-founded ASU's first Association of Women in Physics, which motivated her and united a growing community of like-minded women. Outside of research, she enjoys weight lifting, sketching, and staying active outdoors.

Department of Chemical Engineering

Ian Coates

Kimball Foundation Scholar

Ian's research centers on advancing additive manufacturing to solve critical challenges in drug delivery and tissue engineering. He has developed novel microfluidic microneedle platforms for controlled transdermal delivery and engineered microvascular scaffolds using iCLIP to replicate the complex architecture of native vasculature. This work bridges fundamental polymer engineering with translational biomedical applications. Ian has received multiple honors for his research and actively contributes to mentorship of up-and-coming scientists. Outside of the lab, he enjoys playing beach volleyball and exploring new challenges at the interface of engineering, medicine, and design.

Department of Biology

Johannah Farner

Kimball Foundation Scholar

Johannah is a disease ecologist who studies how rapidly changing environmental conditions shape disease risk for humans, domesticated animals, and wildlife. Her research combines extensive field surveys with experiments and mathematics to investigate how factors such as temperature, heat waves and land use shape host–parasite interactions and species distributions in the mosquito species of western North America. She earned her BS in Biology at Stanford University; her undergraduate thesis focused on the ecology of plant fungal pathogens in California grasslands. Before starting her graduate studies, Johannah worked on conservation projects for threatened and endangered amphibians, fish, and plants.

Department of Statistics

Will Hartog

Georgiana Ducas Endowment Fund Scholar

Will is a fifth-year student whose research interests include modern sequential analysis and adaptive experimentation. Will's research interests are developing useful tools for valid and more powerful inference for data from a sequential setting. His first project involves developing new multiple testing methodology for e-values, a sequentially valid alternative to pvalues. He is also working with his advisor and DoorDash on leveraging existing data to shorten the length of experiments. He enjoys and cares deeply about teaching and has served as primary instructor for four Stanford statistics courses, winning the Centennial Teaching Award for teaching excellence. Will plays French horn with the Stanford orchestras and can often be found exhausting the library's collection of jigsaw puzzles.

Department of Earth & Planetary Sciences

Michael Hasson

Barbara Glynn Scholar

Michael is a sedimentologist and geomorphologist who seeks to understand the ties between Earth's geosphere, hydrosphere, and biosphere. He uses field work, remote sensing, theory, experiments, and machine learning to answer big, fundamental questions about the Earth's surface. For instance, he uses modern environments to learn how rivers functioned before plants evolved, which gives insight into Earth's surface conditions when life was first developing. He also uses machine learning to study how individual grains of sand can help us reconstruct ancient environments in the rock record. Michael has been recognized both for his scientific work, through several invited seminars, and his pedagogy, through a teaching award. When not in the field or lab, he spends his time in the mountains and climbing.

Department of Energy Science & Engineering

Emma Kerr

ARCS Foundation Scholar

Emma's research aims to advance low-temperature water electrolysis by developing cost-effective, high-performance catalysts for Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) electrolyzers. Her work focuses on reducing iridium dependence through novel catalyst design, conductive supports, and data-driven optimization to improve efficiency, durability, and scalability of clean hydrogen production systems. Emma is passionate about advancing a clean, equitable global energy transition through electrochemical conversion technologies. At Stanford, her research focuses on improving Proton Exchange Membrane electrolyzers for low-temperature hydrogen production. Emma has held roles at the U.S. Department of Energy, NREL, and Chevron. Committed to bridging technical communication across disciplines, she co-hosts the *Hydrogen Innovators* podcast and co-founded the Sustainability Professionals and Researchers' Network at Stanford. In her own energy conversion, she enjoys mountaineering, bikepacking, and farmer's markets.

Department of Materials Science & Engineering

Zachary Montgomerie

Emery Family Foundation Scholar

Zach develops theoretical models for structural transitions in DNA with applications in protein expression and cancer therapies. His current work models the transition from right-handed DNA to left-handed DNA which can occur during RNA transcription. Previously, Zach was awarded the Stanford EDGE fellowship and the Stanford Graduate Fellowship. He has also served as the treasurer for Stanford's Black Engineering Graduate Student Association over the past two years. Outside of school, he loves reading, drawing, playing guitar, and spending time outdoors.

Department of Mathematics

Christian Serio

Rhoda Goldman Memorial Scholar

Christian's interests lie at the intersection of probability theory and mathematical physics. His current focus is to understand the large-scale behavior of random interface models and growth models arising in statistical mechanics. Many of these objects, although seemingly very different on small scales, are conjectured to share certain universal scaling limits in the so-called Kardar-Parisi-Zhang universality class. Some of Christian's recent work has focused on proving limit theorems and verifying this universality for random surfaces arising from physical models of magnetism. Outside of math, Christian enjoys playing guitar, cooking, and weightlifting.

Department of Physics

Adithya Sriram

ARCS Foundation Scholar

Adithya is interested in problems in computer science, information theory and quantum error correction and their connection to problems in statistical physics. He has worked on various problems in error correcting codes, neural networks and associative memories, and in quantum dynamics. Outside of research, he can often be found rock climbing, distance running, playing the violin or learning languages.

Department of Aeronautics & Astronautics

Daniel Troyetsky

William K. Bowes, Jr. Foundation Scholar

Daniel is interested in contributing to the advancement of space technology. His doctoral research focuses on developing physics-based and data-driven models of ionized gases (plasmas) for spacecraft electric propulsion systems. These models represent a multipronged approach towards improving predictive engineering capabilities which can aid in the design of new devices. Zach was a recipient of the NASA Space Technology Graduate Research Opportunities (NSTGRO) Fellowship. In addition to research he has organized the Stanford Young Astronauts outreach program for the past several years, developing curriculum and teaching aerospace-related lessons to elementary school students in the Bay Area. Outside of research, Daniel enjoys hiking, climbing, and watching Formula One.

University of California, Berkeley

Ph.D. Program Scholars

Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering
Energy & Resources Group
Department of Environmental Science, Policy & Management
Department of Industrial Engineering & Operations Research
Department of Statistics

Department of Environmental Science, Policy & Management

Anusha Bishop

Chris Simpson Brent and Bruce Brent Scholar
in memory of Dorothy Lewis Simpson
Bailey and Chris Meyer Scholar

Anusha studies how evolution shapes genetic diversity across landscapes. Genetic diversity is crucial for population health and adaptation and determining its drivers is key for assessing vulnerability to environmental change. In her research, Anusha builds and applies tools for understanding genetic diversity and works with the California Conservation Genomics Project to inform the conservation of hundreds of species across the state. Passionate about making data science accessible to everyone, Anusha is also a consultant for the Berkeley D-Lab where she helps Berkeley researchers with coding and statistics.

Energy & Resources Group

Colette Brown

Susan and James Acquistapace Scholar

Colette's current work is focused on quantifying post-fire vegetation recovery in the Arctic tundra. She has combined field data and remote sensing imagery using machine learning to extend the spatial and temporal resolution of recovery patterns following this novel disturbance. More broadly, she is interested in combining data sources to catalogue the impacts of climate change on terrestrial ecosystems. Outside of research, she is a dedicated teacher and received a UC Berkeley and department award as an outstanding instructor.

Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering

Akirah Epps

ARCS Foundation Scholar

Akirah's research focuses on the intersections of air quality and race, class, and social justice. She leverages satellite and ground-based measurements to examine the spatial and temporal distribution of air pollutants, with a focus on uncovering systematic and distributive inequalities. Her main goal is to support community-driven initiatives that make environmental science more accessible and responsive to the needs of marginalized communities, while grounding scientific work within its broader social and historical context. She is the lead author of a recent publication in *Environmental Science & Technology,* and the paper examines spatial inequalities in concentrated animal feeding operations in North Carolina.

Department of Statistics

Anthony Ozerov

Rhoda Goldman Memorial Scholar

Anthony's research focuses on statistics in the physical sciences. Over two internships at the SETI Institute Anthony used Bayesian modeling to understand the global distribution of large meteor impacts. At Berkeley, Anthony is currently involved in a project on using deep learning to accurately simulate fluid dynamics at low resolution, and another project on fusing different data sources to learn more about glaciers. He believes in the importance of statistics outreach and mentors undergraduate students. Outside of work, Anthony likes ice skating, miscellaneous sports, reading, and writing.

Department of Industrial Engineering & Operations Research

Jessica Zhao

NVIDIA Scholar

Jessica is interested in optimization and machine learning and is currently investigating scalable algorithms for decision making. Her research develops scalable algorithms that integrate optimization for decision-making directly into machine learning pipelines, enabling large-scale models to learn predictions optimized for downstream decision quality. In the past, she has worked on algorithms for team assignments, recommender systems, and research in atmospheric science. Jessica also enjoys teaching and has served as a TA for undergraduate courses in programming and optimization. Outside of academics, her hobbies include baking and hiking.

University of California, Davis

Ph.D. Program Scholars

Animal Behavior Graduate Group
Center for Neuroscience
Department of Agricultural & Environmental Chemistry
Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering
Department of Biomedical Engineering
Department of Chemistry
Department of Computer Science
Department of Molecular, Cellular & Integrative Physiology
Department of Pharmacology & Toxicology
Ecology Graduate Group
Geology Graduate Group
Integrative Pathobiology Graduate Group
Population Biology Graduate Group

Department of Pharmacology & Toxicology

Aishwarya Bhusal

Carol Henwood Scholar
Susan and Dennis Mooradian Scholar

Aishwarya's research focuses on how environmental pollutants influence the risk and/or severity of neurological disease. Her current project is focused on examining how particulate matter in traffic-related air pollution (TRAP) contributes to Alzheimer's disease. She also plans to investigate how inhaled PM enters the brain, either through the olfactory nerve or via systemic circulation, in order to better understand the exposure pathways that drive neurotoxicity. Honors received while in graduate school include NIH-funded predoctoral fellowships and several travel awards. Prior to graduate school, Aish worked as a lab assistant in an environmental toxicology lab. Aishwarya is committed to advancing equity in STEM through her leadership in the Diversity in STEM Coalition and her service on multiple program committees. Outside of science, Aishwarya enjoys hiking, watching movies, and spending time with loved ones.

Center for Neuroscience

Brett Borman

Jill H. Kramer Scholar

It is unclear why people with equivalent hearing ability have a dramatically wide range of speech perception in noisy environments. Brett is investigating the neural (EEG) and cognitive factors behind speech perception to better identify those who might struggle more than others in a "cocktail party" environment. In addition, he is a part of a team creating a rapid brain-based diagnostic tool to better identify hearing loss using machine learning trained on clinical, behavioral, and neurological (EEG) data. In parallel to his work in neuroscience, Brett is passionate about teaching at UC Davis and performing pedagogical research. When not in the lab or the classroom, he enjoys hiking all across Northern California or spending time relaxing at home reading and watching movies with his cats.

Ecology Graduate Group

Lee Burrows

ARCS Foundation Scholar

Lee's research focuses on invasive species management, spatial analyses, and applied conservation strategies to support at-risk wildlife in California. Their current project focuses on conserving the state and federally threatened Giant Gartersnake *(Thamnophis gigas)* in California's Central Valley by integrating invasive species management with land, habitat, and water management in agricultural landscapes. They contributed a chapter to a major interdisciplinary report on rice field management for biodiversity and they have worked with collaborators on habitat suitability modeling and long-term invasive species removal projects. As a queer, low-income, first-generation student, Lee is deeply committed to equity in science. They earned an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Honorable Mention and the UC Davis GGE Fellowship, and they engage in public science outreach, conservation volunteering, and mentoring of students from underrepresented backgrounds.

Department of Chemistry

Andras (Andy) Domokos

Elizabeth and Clark Callander Scholar

Andy's interests lie at the interface of synthetic chemistry and neuroscience. He develops novel chemical tools and probes for understanding the mechanisms by which psychedelics impact brain function, and he uses this information to try and engineer therapeutics for neurodegenerative and neuropsychiatric disorders with improved safety profiles. While at UC Davis, Andy has received numerous honors including the Bradford Borge Fellowship, the David and Ruth Volman Graduate Fellowship, and the Robert K. Brinton Award in Chemistry for his outstanding work. In his free time, he enjoys powerlifting.

Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering

Eleanor Fadely

Nordstrom Stores Endowment Fund Scholar

Eleanor is passionate about connecting fundamental scientific concepts and applied engineering tools to better understand complex environmental processes. Her research focuses on microbial manganese oxidation, or biomineralization, which is ubiquitous in natural and engineered porous media (e.g., soils, sediments, water treatment systems). The resulting Mn oxide nanoparticles mediate nutrient cycling and attenuate toxicant metals. Eleanor uses "soil-on-a-chip" microfluidic reactors combined with optical microscopy and X-ray spectroscopy to assess mechanisms governing manganese biomineralization at the pore-scale. Eleanor has won several awards for her work, including a DOE Office of Science SCGSR Award to support her ongoing collaboration with beamline scientists at the Stanford Synchrotron Radiation Lightsource. Prior to beginning her Ph.D., Eleanor worked for a consulting company specializing in water quality monitoring at waste disposal sites. Outside of the lab, she enjoys running, rock climbing, and exploring California.

Department of Chemistry

Mohammad Hashemian

ARCS Foundation Scholar

Mo's research integrates molecular biology, structural biology, and enzyme biochemistry, with a focus on understanding cancer-associated variants of the DNA repair enzyme MUTYH, particularly those surrounding its metal cofactors. The human DNA glycosylase MUTYH plays a critical role in preventing mutations caused by reactive oxygen and nitrogen species, and inherited germline variants of MUTYH are linked to increased cancer risk. Mo's present work focuses on uncovering the structural and functional features of MUTYH to better understand its role in carcinogenesis, addressing key unanswered questions about its structure and the mechanisms of disease-associated variants. Mo's work has contributed to publications in *Nucleic Acids Research and Nature Communications*. He has received several competitive awards and has presented at multiple conferences, winning a poster award at the 2025 R. Bryan Miller Symposium and delivering a talk at the 2024 EMGS meeting. Outside of research, Mo trains and competes in Olympic-style weightlifting at local and national events

Integrative Pathobiology Graduate Group

Caleb Huntington

Ramsay Family Foundation Scholar

Caleb is researching pre-emergent viral diversity in wildlife (specifically, bats) and new tools for studying these systems. His work draws on fieldwork, lab work, and bioinformatics to explore questions that have relevance for viral surveillance and pandemic prediction. Before beginning his Ph.D., Caleb found his passion for research through an NSF-funded research experiences for undergraduates (REU) position in an influenza lab and an independent study project on spectacled bears in Ecuador. After graduating from college, he worked as a public health associate at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) where he was paired with the Minneapolis Health Department to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. During his time at UC-Davis, Caleb has been recognized for his ability to communicate his research effectively by being awarded best speaker for his graduate group symposium and advancing as a finalist in the UC-Davis Grad Slam.

Department of Computer Science

Doreen Joseph

ARCS Foundation Scholar

Doreen's research interests include the design of cyber-resilient systems, applications of machine learning in cyber security, and securing the Internet of Things (IoT). Currently, she is pursuing research in binary security analysis for embedded systems. As an active student leader, she has served on the Chancellor's Graduate and Professional Student Advisory Board, the Graduate Student Association, and has led in student organizations like the Black Graduate and Professional Student Association, and the Graduate Scholars of Color+ organization. Doreen is committed to public service and is eager to empower students who are underrepresented and marginalized in STEM. She aims to be a global advocate for accessible, inclusive, and equitable high-quality education for all. In her free time, she enjoys flying planes, learning new skills, reading, traveling, exploring nature, and exercising.

Department of Agricultural & Environmental Chemistry

Virginia Krause

Eileen D. and Lisa C. Ludwig Endowment Fund Scholar

Virginia's research in the Poulin Lab focuses on mercury fate and transport, including methylmercury production in rivers and reservoirs. Mercury poses significant threats to freshwater ecosystems, particularly in regions impacted by historic gold mining, where it may undergo a microbially mediated transformation to neurotoxic methylmercury that bioaccumulates and biomagnifies up aquatic food webs. The focus of this research is to assess the fate and transport of mercury and its conversion to neurotoxic methylmercury in freshwater systems to assist in the development of total maximum daily loads for mercury and reduce concentrations of mercury in fish. Beyond research, Virginia has honed her teaching skills through multiple Teaching Assistant roles and was nominated for the Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award (Winter 2025). She also leads STEM Squad, an after-school science outreach program serving socioeconomically disadvantaged schools in Yolo County. She aims to pursue a public-sector career in water quality and community science.

Department of Molecular, Cellular & Integrative Physiology

Emma (MJ) Marshall

ARCS Foundation Scholar

MJ is a DVM/Ph.D. student interested in the intersection between aquatic animal health and molecular and developmental biology. Her dissertation research probes the role of canonical transcription factors involved in neural crest cell development during formation of their peripheral nervous system derivatives using *Ambystoma mexicanum* as a model. Understanding the mechanisms underlying their development could be informative for understanding diseases that affect the PNS (congenital and acquired) and developing therapeutic strategies to treat these diseases. MJ was awarded fellowships in both the Pharmacology and enhanced Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology T32 training programs at UC Davis as well as several academic merit-based awards. She has a strong clinical background in veterinary medicine, having worked in small animal private practice as a veterinary technician starting in high school, but she has excelled in her transition in the research world due to her enthusiasm and strong work ethic. When she's not in the lab, MJ enjoys spending time outdoors hiking with friends or doing cozy hobbies like crocheting and reading at home with her cat, Caspian.

Integrative Pathobiology Graduate Group

Yingratana (Belle) McLennan

ARCS Foundation Scholar

Yingratana is studying the pathology of white matter degeneration in Fragile X-associated Tremor/ Ataxia Syndrome (FXTAS). Her current project investigates how astrocytes and oligodendrocytes contribute to neurodegeneration in FXTAS, a disorder caused by CGG repeat expansions in the FMR1 gene. Using postmortem human brain tissue, she utilizes histology techniques to investigate glial inclusion pathology and white matter integrity in the prefrontal cortex. She has over a decade of experience in clinical research and has co-authored multiple scientific publications. Outside the lab, Yingratana mentors undergraduates and enjoys drinking coffee while making artwork.

Animal Behavior Graduate Group

Alice Michel

Marie and Barry Lipman Scholar

Alice's research is focused on long-distance communication in western lowland gorillas. Using passive acoustic monitoring in a community reserve in the tropical peatland forests of northern Republic of Congo, she aims to disentangle how different selective pressures contribute to this signaling behavior. Her objective is to shed light on the social and ecological lives of elusive wildlife, through developing noninvasive methods, while providing scientific training and working in collaboration with local communities. Outside her dissertation work, she is a technical advisor for the gorilla conservation organization GRACE, a mentor to undergraduate interns, a GSR for the Road Ecology Center, and a column editor for the UCD Animal Behavior blog, *The Ethogram*. In her spare time, Alice enjoys outdoor adventures and spending time with friends.

Population Biology Graduate Group

Nicholas Peoples

Katherine Hellman Black Endowment Fund Scholar

Nick is interested in how the evolution of innovations (important organismal traits) have shaped the diversification of species. His work combines phylogenetic comparative methods, high-speed videography, and functional morphology to answer questions across a broad scale, with a focus on the evolution of complex teeth in fishes. Outside his dissertation work, Nick makes frequent trips to Kenya to study the biodiversity of Lake Victoria in collaboration with the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute. Nick is an avid fly fisher and soccer player, keeps aquariums of exotic fish, and enjoys camping.

Department of Biomedical Engineering

Tyler Singer-Clark

Mary Ann Peoples Scholar

Tyler graduated from MIT in 2014 with a degree in Computer Science and Engineering. After 5 years in industry developing business software, he joined the BrainGate research team at Brown University as a Research Engineer, with a focus on delivering an intracortical brain-computer interface (iBCI) that can be used continuously by a paralyzed user in their own home to control their personal computing devices. At the UC Davis Neuroprosthetics Lab, Tyler's research focus is on how to restore speech for people who have lost speech due to neurological injuries or diseases such as ALS. He is studying how to decode movements of articulators (tongue, lips, jaw, larynx) from neural activity in the brain. Tyler completed a project to decode attempted tongue movements from neural activity in the brain in order to control a computer cursor, and now he is building an artificial (software) vocal tract to create a speech neuroprosthetic device. In addition to sports like soccer, table tennis, and pickleball, Tyler enjoys playing and reading about chess.

Neuroscience Graduate Group

Tanner Stevenson

ARCS Foundation Scholar

Tanner's research lies at the intersection of cognitive, systems, and computational neuroscience. Tanner worked in neurotechnology and software engineering before joining the Hanks Lab at UC Davis for his Ph.D. His current project uses advanced biosensors, targeted manipulations, computational modeling, and novel rodent decision-making tasks to uncover how dopamine release in the striatum and prefrontal cortex supports behavioral flexibility. Tanner's work has already revealed novel regional differences in dopamine dynamics that offer intriguing insights into the mechanistic role of dopamine in flexible behavior. Outside the lab, Tanner enjoys getting outdoors by hiking, running, biking, or swimming, and he loves spending time with his wife and son.

Ecology Graduate Group

Nikki Williamson

ARCS Foundation Scholar

Nikki's research interests focus on looking at the effects of warming on plant functional traits such as phenology and leaf nutrient concentrations to understand how anthropogenic climate change can influence herbivore populations. More specifically, she is interested in quantifying spatiotemporal shifts in nutrient quality of plant tissues that are available for caribou populations in West Greenland. This project aims to use multi-spectral drone surveys coupled with ground sampling to develop novel methodology for the evaluation of spatiotemporal variation in caribou forage quality at the sub-landscape scale. This research aims to elucidate potential declines in caribou abundance and offspring production.

University of California, Merced

Ph.D. Program Scholars

Department of Chemistry
Department of Cognitive & Information Sciences
Department of Environmental Systems
Department of Physics

Department of Chemistry

Victor Duran Arroyo
ARCS Foundation Scholar

Before entering graduate school, Victor worked for an agricultural product testing facility located in his hometown of Oxnard, California. His current research interests are the design, synthesis, and application of a new generation of catalysts using earth-abundant transition metals to offer greener, more sustainable alternatives to current precious-metal catalysts used in chemical industries. His published works have helped expand the transformation scope of manganese (Mn) and nickel (Ni) catalysts for the synthesis of pharmaceutically relevant molecules, in addition to offering substantive mechanistic elucidation into the underlying chemistry so as to enable later rational modification for further improvement of Mn and Ni catalytic systems. Outside of the lab, Victor loves to watch films, listen to music, cook, and practice photography.

Department of Cognitive & Information Sciences

Yasemin Gokcen
Charlie Campbell Scholar
Carmi and Darrell Ticehurst Scholar

Yasemin spent time in her undergraduate career in a developmental cognitive neuroscience research lab which inspired her interest in learning about the brain and cognition. She became passionate about using a wide range of methodology, from neuroimaging techniques to computational modeling, to understand how brain structure reflects function. Yasemin's current work involves building computational neuroscience models to understand language and sentence processing. Outside of her research, Yasemin has served on the CIS Graduate Student Group as the Social and Community Chair and mentored incoming Ph.D. students within her department. She also enjoys cooking for close friends and hiking in national parks.

Department of Environmental Systems

Genevieve McKeown-Green

ARCS Foundation Scholar

Genevieve's research investigates zero-emission vehicle adoption across California. Through her research, she talks with local policymakers and stakeholders to learn first-hand about the intricacies of California's shifting energy landscape. Additional research interests include extreme weather emergency planning and developing strategies for community engagement. Throughout her graduate work at UC Merced and undergraduate work at UC Berkeley, Genevieve has been dedicated to supporting fellow students, including as a science and mathematics tutor for Berkeley's Summer Bridge program. Outside of the lab, she enjoys camping, music, and hosting graduate student board game nights.

Department of Physics

Micah Oeur

Jane Fuller Gillespie Memorial Scholar

Micah began her academic career at Cal State Long Beach earning a B.S. in physics. At UC Merced she uses cosmological zoom-in simulations to study the structure and content of Milky Way–like galaxies, applying a novel technique that combines stellar kinematics and chemistry to recover the Galactic mass distribution and probe dark matter. She enjoys teaching, mentoring, and building community. As a Center for Advancing Diversity in Engineering Fellow, she was instructor of record for a course on Inclusive Innovation where she applied pedagogical practices learned as a Cal-Bridge doctoral scholar. She also founded Equi-Tea, a forum to empower women in physics. Micah is pursuing the professoriate, aiming to continue researching, mentoring students, and fostering inclusive academic spaces.

Department of Environmental Systems

Andrew Silverstein

Edina Jennison Scholar

Before beginning research in Agrivoltaics Andrew first worked at UC Merced under VISTA, doing remote sensing and large data analysis. While there he also worked on wetlands restoration projects and an invasive species study in the California Delta. He now utilizes this experience in his Ph.D. research to expand knowledge of how solar panel shading impacts water use efficiency, plant phenology, and soil properties in California's central valley. Andrew believes that bringing multiple disciplines together has tremendous potential for innovation and the nexus between renewable energy and water conservation provides exactly that opportunity. He enjoys playing the saxophone, board games, and backpacking in his spare time.

University of California, San Francisco

Ph.D. Program Scholars

Departments of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
Department of Bioengineering
Department of Biological & Medical Informatics
Department of Biomedical Sciences
Department of Biophysics
Department of Developmental & Stem Cell Biology
Department of Neuroscience
Department of Oral & Craniofacial Sciences
Department of Pharmaceutical Science & Pharmacogenomics

Department of Neuroscience

Andoni Asencor

Dr. and Mrs. Bernard M. Kramer Endowment Fund Scholar

Andoni's current research focuses on understanding the biological mechanisms of the transcobalamin receptor (CD320) in and beyond vitamin B12 uptake into the central nervous system. Prior to joining UCSF Andoni completed his B.A. in neuroscience at Boston University, and worked as a research associate in Nirupa Chaudhari's lab at the University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine. Andoni is also a 2024 Marine Biological Laboratory SPINES Fellow and a 2024-2026 Society for Neuroscience NSP Fellow. As a proud Jamaican-Spanish American from Miami Andoni uses his visibility as a neuroscientist to recruit more Caribbean-American students into neuroscience research and to highlight the work of other Caribbean-American scientists already in the field.

Department of Neuroscience

Christine Boutros

Carol and Dixon Doll Scholar
Leslie and George Hume Scholar

Christine, a California native, attended Northeastern University in Boston and graduated in 2017 with a B.S. in Behavioral Neuroscience. During her time in Boston, Christine worked at Boston Children's Hospital studying the neuroscience of motivation and later studied novel therapeutics for HIV treatment at Massachusetts General Hospital. Christine is now an M.D.–Ph.D. candidate in UCSF's Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP). She is combining her interests in neuroscience and infectious diseases by studying *coccidioidomycosis* (aka "Valley Fever") to better understand the factors that influence dissemination to the central nervous system as a means to improve patient outcomes and clinical care. Valley Fever is a pulmonary disease caused by Coccidioides, a fungal pathogen found in the soil in the southwestern United States that can disseminate to the central nervous system and cause coccidioidal meningitis.

Department of Bioengineering

Stephanie Brener
Deborah Mann Scholar

Stephanie is a neural engineer passionate about developing novel deep brain stimulation (DBS) therapies to treat mood and motivation disorders in Parkinson's Disease. Her research focuses on decoding the neural signals of motivated decision-making and identifying how DBS affects apathy and impulsivity. She received her M.Sc. in Computational Neuroscience from the Weizmann Institute of Science, where she developed algorithms to identify humans by the smell of their ear. Pre-Ph.D. she was a product manager at a health tech startup. Steph is a committed mentor to aspiring researchers through outreach programs aimed at increasing diversity in academia. Outside the lab, she plays violin in a jazz ensemble, creates crochet and macrame artworks, and enjoys propagating plants.

Department of Oral & Craniofacial Sciences

Belmaliz Cardona Rodriguez
ARCS Foundation Scholar

Belmaliz completed her B.S. in Industrial Microbiology in the University of Puerto Rico of Mayaguez in 2022 and then joined the NIH postbacc program where she worked on immune factors related to periodontal disease susceptibility in mice. She arrived at UCSF with research interest in oral immunology and recently joined Dr. Mark Ansel's lab for her dissertation. Her research focuses on uncovering the effects of genes post-transcriptional regulation in Sjogren's disease. Her outside interests include the outdoors, gym, sports, and music.

Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology

Micah Fernando
ARCS Foundation Scholar

Micah is studying the role of Rab GTPases in cellular trafficking and disease by developing the first pharmacological tools to study their function. GTPases are crucial regulators of cellular homeostasis yet are still considered 'hard to drug.' Micah's project will shed light on basic and translational questions regarding how the cell achieves specificity in trafficking its cargo and ultimately maintains homeostasis. Micah was awarded the Discovery Fellowship and has helped lead the Triathlon Club at UCSF. He also volunteers with the Science and Education Partnership at UCSF, visiting local elementary schools to share his passion for science.

Department of Biophysics

Gyuna Kim

Ramsay Family Foundation Scholar

Gyuna is interested in probing how biological systems adapt and respond to external pressures, specifically in the context of our innate immune system. Prior to coming to UCSF, Gyuna received her BS in chemistry and biology at MIT and later worked in several biotechnology companies in Boston and Seattle. Through her experiences in industry, she developed an appreciation for high-throughput approaches and their potential to answer complex biological questions at scale. At UCSF, she is excited to combine her scientific and technical interests. Outside of the lab, Gyuna enjoys playing music, video games, and trying out new hobbies.

Department of Bioengineering

Benjamin Lesch

Barbara A. Wolfe Scholar

Ben's research aims to make lab-grown blood a reality. He uses genome-wide CRISPR screens in blood stem cells to identify genetic strategies that overcome key bottlenecks in transfusion medicine. Before graduate school he trained at Stanford University through the CIRM Bridges Program, applying genome editing to correct disease-causing mutations in blood stem cells. Now he harnesses these tools to enhance cellular functions beyond wild type, aiming to make red blood cell manufacturing more scalable and cost-effective. Outside his research Ben is passionate about mentorship and science communication, believing that helping society understand the value of science is just as important as the science itself. In his free time, he enjoys weightlifting, cooking, and relaxing at home with his cat.

Department of Developmental & Stem Cell Biology

Mikaela Matera-Vatnick

Merrill Randol Scholar

Mika is an M.D.–Ph.D. student exploring how the gut microbiome shapes responses to obesity treatments and regulates energy balance. She earned her B.S. in Biological Sciences from Cornell University and was a Cancer Research Training Award Fellow at the NIH. She is a dedicated advocate for underrepresented communities in science through SACNAS. Mika is also a passionate science communicator using her Instagram @mika.biome to combat misinformation and share gut microbiome research. Outside the lab, she enjoys training for triathlons, backpacking in national parks, and immersing herself in cultures around the world.

Department of Biological & Medical Informatics

Faye Orcales

ARCS Foundation Scholar

Faye graduated summa cum laude from San Francisco State University where she earned a Genentech-PINC scholarship and was awarded an NIH Diversity Supplement which funded her post-baccalaureate research at UCSF. She is interested in using multi-omics approaches to study the mechanisms of complex human diseases. In her prior research she utilized machine learning techniques on RNA and cell surface protein sequencing (CITE-seq) data to detect biomarkers that distinguished patients with *hidradenitis suppurativa* from healthy individuals. Faye is looking forward to learning new computational skills along with strengthening her communication and leadership skills as a Ph.D. student at UCSF. Outside of the lab she enjoys playing video games and trying out different restaurants.

Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences & Pharmacogenomics

Sham Rampersaud

Ji Ing Soong Endowment Fund Scholar

Sham has a long standing and prolific track record of understanding the mechanisms of cancer as well as a passion for developing new therapies. He joined UCSF with several years of experience culminating in multiple fellowships, awards and publications. Currently Sham aims to design best-in-class therapies to treat the deadliest blood cancer, acute myeloid leukemia, for which there is an unmet clinical need for highly safe and broadly efficacious therapeutics. In his free time Sham enjoys jazz clubs, comedy shows, exploring new films and theater.

Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology

Vanna Tran

ARCS Foundation Scholar

Vanna is interested in cell division mechanics, essential to understand multicellular life. Specifically her dissertation project asks how a large protein complex called the kinetochore maintains its structure and function under force during mitosis. Vanna's background in cell biology and biochemistry, stemming from her time at UT Southwestern, got her excited about exploring the cellular biophysics space during her Ph.D. studies. Alongside research Vanna strives to be a community member by doing science outreach in local schools. Outside of academia Vanna enjoys traveling, photography, tea, and spending time with her cat, Nobu.

Department of Biomedical Sciences

Jerry Wang

Rita Benton Milner and Jim Milner Scholar

Jerry is an aspiring physician-scientist passionate about the blood-brain barrier and its importance in brain health. He first developed an interest in neurogenomics and bioinformatics as an undergraduate at UCLA, culminating in a thesis implicating cellular transport pathways in the genetics of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. After a brief industry stint developing quality control assays for drug screening, he joined UCSF's M.D.–Ph.D. program. Jerry's graduate research explores the molecular diversity and spatial organization of blood-brain barrier cells in both normal states and vascular malformations such as arteriovenous malformations (AVMs)—a leading cause of hemorrhagic stroke in youth. He aims to advance clinical decision-making and precision therapies for AVMs and related stroke disorders. Outside the lab Jerry enjoys hiking and exploring San Francisco's many parks.

University of California, Santa Cruz

Ph.D. and M.A. Programs

Department of Astronomy & Astrophysics
Department of Biomolecular Engineering
Department of Chemistry
Department of Computational Media
Department of Earth & Planetary Sciences
Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology
Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering
Department of Molecular, Cell & Developmental Biology
Department of Ocean Sciences
Department of Physics
Science Communication Master's Program

Department of Astronomy & Astrophysics

Jordan Diaz

Montgomery Street Foundation Endowment Fund Scholar

Jordan is working on developing novel astronomical instrumentation to observe exoplanets (planets outside our Solar System) directly. In his research he is investigating the use of photonic technologies to probe for young forming planets around other stars. After earning a B.Sc. in Physics and an M.Sc. in Optics in Ensenada, Mexico, he decided to follow his passion for astronomy by pursuing a Ph.D. Upon admittance to UCSC Jordan was awarded the merit-based Cota-Robles Fellowship and later became an Osterbrock Fellow. As a first-gen Latino he is interested in contributing to bridging the gap between science and society, particularly for underrepresented communities. In his free time he enjoys swimming, surfing, going to the movies, and reading sci-fi and comic books.

Department of Earth & Planetary Sciences

Jessica Gagliardi

Patricia Wright Klitgaard Scholar

Jessica is a geochronologist and geochemist who analyzes Antarctic subglacial chemical precipitates to characterize past hydrologic activity of the Antarctic Ice Sheet and investigate its sensitivity to different parts of the climate system such as atmospheric temperature, ocean temperature, and sea level. Her ongoing projects include studies of precipitates and corals from both Antarctica and Poland that date back to the last Ice Age. Jessica was recognized for her commitment to teaching with a Graduate Pedagogy Fellowship in 2025, and volunteers at the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History leading geology programs for the public. Outside of being a scientist she enjoys gardening, yoga, hiking and art.

Department of Physics

Pierce Giffin

ARCS Foundation Scholar

Pierce's research focuses on high energy particle physics phenomenology and searches for dark matter. He is especially interested in new ways to look for dark matter using techniques in particle physics. His dissertation uses particle-in-cell simulations to explore dark matter plasmas in the Bullet Cluster. Additionally, he performs collider phenomenology studies for the PIONEER and DarkQuest experiments. Pierce has a strong passion for teaching and was awarded the Graduate Pedagogy Fellowship in 2022. He aided in founding the Santa Cruz Organization for Outreach in Physics and created a graduate-run physics help room mentoring students across levels. Beyond the university he enjoys weightlifting and all things Star Wars.

Science Communication Master's Program

Kari Goodbar

ARCS Foundation Scholar

Originally from Buford, Georgia Kari followed a career in marine mammal science to Oahu. She has assisted with numerous research projects involving the development of technology that improves understanding of cetacean physiology and behavior while also helping to translate complex scientific concepts into engaging educational material for diverse audiences. Beyond her work with marine mammals she has also committed substantial time to environmental non-profits in Hawaii that center Native Hawaiian and ocean management practices in community conservation and education programs.

Department of Biomolecular Engineering

Mira Mastoras

Lakeside Foundation Scholar

Mira's research focuses on developing computational methods to improve the accuracy of genome assemblies, essential for understanding the underlying biology of organisms. Specifically she is working on a transformer model for diploid assembly polishing, reducing genome assembly errors in high-quality reference genome assemblies. She has led the development of DeepPolisher, a sequence-to-sequence transformer model, and co-created PHARAOH, a method for phasing HiFi read alignments. Mira's work demonstrates her expertise in bioinformatics tools and applications, and has been presented at major conferences. She is also dedicated to mentoring junior researchers.

Science Communication Master's Program

Olivia Maule

ARCS Foundation Scholar

Olivia's interest in science led her to the Ecuadorian Amazon where she studied butterfly evolution in the Andes. She now uses podcasting, video production and writing to highlight environmental and conservation efforts across the Americas. Her work in both Spanish and English allows for science to reach audiences beyond the lab bench and mobilize environmental consciousness throughout diverse communities. Olivia finds great joy in documenting the synergy between people and landscapes, fulfilling her passion for exploring new destinations and meeting people around the globe.

Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology

Maya McElfish

ARCS Foundation Scholar

Maya's dissertation research explores sensory morphology and behavior of kelp forest fishes. Her field work takes place on Santa Catalina Island where she works with rocky reef fishes, particularly the California moray eel. She combines laboratory and field experiments to observe sensory-mediated foraging behavior, supplementing with morphological and anatomical perspectives to compare sensory structures between species. She is passionate about creating more hands-on opportunities for teaching STEM that center on empowering student curiosity. Outside of school Maya loves to bike, snorkel, and geocache.

Department of Earth & Planetary Sciences

Nathan McGregor

Devlin Family Fund Scholar

Nathan is a planetary scientist who studies how planetary interiors evolve and influence surface deformation and atmospheric formations. His current project investigates true polar wander of Venus by using mantle convection simulations to explore how internal mass redistribution may have driven large-scale reorientation of the planet's surface over time. Nathan has served on organizing committees for the Venus Exploration Analysis Group and the AAS Division for Planetary Sciences. He teaches GED math test prep courses with the Project for Inmate Education and volunteers as a subject matter expert with the NASA Community College Network. Nathan currently serves on the UCSC Committee on Teaching and speaks at local high schools about STEM careers.

Department of Biomolecular Engineering

Cade Mirchandani

Libby and Barry Taylor Scholar

Cade is developing innovative bioinformatic methods for evolutionary and population genomics research. His current projects focus on developing computational tools for large-scale genomic analysis, as well as investigating evolutionary dynamics of host-symbiont interactions. His methods work has enabled analysis of the California Conservation Genomics Project's 200+ threatened species, while his symbiont research has important implications for vector-borne disease control through Wolbachia. Cade is first author of publications in *PLOS Pathogens and Molecular Biology and Evolution,* demonstrating exceptional research capabilities. His significant contributions to Snakemake, an open-source scientific workflow system essential for reproducible research, have earned him recognition as a project maintainer. In the lab Cade actively mentors new students, maintains shared resources, and collaborates on multiple projects. Outside the lab Cade enjoys hiking with his dog, playing video games, and practicing martial arts.

Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology

Allison Payne

Linda Dyer Millard Scholar

Allison is interested in combining biologging and passive acoustic monitoring to explore the ecology of the deep ocean. Her dissertation involves developing a novel instrument that is attached to Northern elephant seals in order to listen to the sounds of the deep ocean including the elusive beaked whale species. In addition to being a field biologist Allison is a science communicator, teacher, and mentor, and has published numerous papers with undergraduate mentees during her PhD.

Department of Ocean Sciences

Anna Schartman

ARCS Foundation Scholar

Anna is a paleoclimatologist investigating the history and drivers of the savanna biome development through Earth's past in order to enhance our understanding of the response of these critical ecosystems to climate and environmental change. Her research aims to determine the origination and history of the iconic savanna ecosystem in Northwest Africa, as well as evaluate the climate and consumer (herbivory and fire) controls on its development and evolution in the Miocene Epoch (~23 – 5 Mya). Anna is a non-traditional, first-generation graduate student who pursued a career in English language teaching before making the transition into the geosciences which she has funded with several prestigious and competitive fellowships including through the NSF. She also has a strong belief in the value of community and is intensely involved in supporting fellow graduate students through her years-long leadership as an organizer of the department's peer mentor program, and her role as department steward for UAW 4811.

Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering

Søren Tornoe

ARCS Foundation Scholar

Søren researches material science and thin film optics in the Nanostructured Energy Conversion Technology and Research Lab at UCSC. His areas of research include protective coatings for astronomical optics, green hydrogen from seawater electrolysis, and device electronics. His current focus is on atomic layer deposition of aluminum fluoride (AlFx) over various applications from protective thin films for astronomical telescope mirrors to depositing AlFx thin films on 2D materials.

Department of Chemistry

John Tressel

ARCS Foundation Scholar

John is a materials chemist focusing on the design, production and characterization of high-performance catalysts for water purification, through the degradation of organic dyes and bacteria. This is done through porphyrin derived single atom catalysts which can help utilize minimal metal loadings while maintaining high production rates of disinfecting chemicals such as hydrogen peroxide and chlorine. John was previously awarded a Sigma Xi research grant for his work on copper chlorophyllin based catalysts. Outside of the lab he is a member of the UCSC rugby team where he plays lock and flanker.

Department of Molecular, Cell & Developmental Biology

Chloe Wohlenberg

Julie and Tom Reis Scholar

Chloe's current research is focused on understanding how small molecules impact the cell's ability to recognize problematic mRNAs and how this critical process changes with age. Her academic achievements led her to receive a spot on the department's competitive T32 training grant, and as a second-author on a recent publication. Chloe is also passionate about mentorship and teaching, and enthusiastically trains undergraduate in the lab. Beyond graduate school, Chloe aspires to lead her own research group focused on understanding the RNA biology underlying neurodegeneration and aging. Outside of lab Chloe loves to craft, play board/tabletop games, and rock climb

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(as of 6/30/2025)

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($2,500–$4,999)

Ellie and Lock Bingham
Laine Buckingham
Donna Miller Casey
Shelley de Rouvray
Jane Gardner
Amy Kaiser
Sheila and Tom Larsen
Nancy Mueller
Kiki Pescatello
Kim Polese
Sara Schneider
Camilla and George Smith
Marguerite Tompkins

With Honors
($1,000–$2,499)

Joanna Beam
Richard Behl
Nancy Bush and Emil Scoffone
Barbee and Bruce Callander
Katherine Chou
Jerry DiVecchio
Sheila Dowell
Noelle and Alex Filippenko
Tina Bartlett Hinckley and Robert Hinckley
Katy and Tom Hope
Heidi and Bertrand Huchberger
Laura Lambert
Nancy and Larry Mohr
Diana Moore
Peggy Newton
Francie and Chuck Osthimer
Carolyn Patrick
Victoria Penfield
Venetta and John Rohal
Martha and Greg Ryan
Kathleen Rydar
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Marjorie and Tomas Sennett
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Leslie Van Houten and Philip Belisle
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Special Achievement
($500 – $999)

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Leslie and Bobby Brenman
Rada and Kent Brooks
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Carol Cravens
Glennie Eisele
Pamela and David Hakman
Janice and Lee Haris
Cynthia and Eric Haueter
Lander Hynes
Pepper and Michael Jackson
Elaine Larkin
Connie and Haig Mardikian
Margaret McDowell
Nancy Nebeker
Ann Ogilvie Macdonald
Andrea Resnick
Sarah Rogers
Debjani Sen and Saurabh Dutta Chowdhury

Friends of ARCS

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Stephanie Parr
Caren and James Quay
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Cynthia Rutter
Andrea Jean Tiller
Kathryn Troxler
Daniel B. Vigneron
Laura Waste

In Honor Of

Joanna Beam
Barbara Glynn

In Memory Of

Breton Kaiser Taylor

Contributors

Cynthia Coolidge
Kathleen Rydar
Kathryn Troxler

General Operating Fund

Edina Jennison

Our Thanks to Those Who Also Helped ARCS During the 2024-2025 Year

Kimberly Cheene Catap
Lee Dickinson, Advanced Visual Production
Deborah Greenwood of the ARCS office
Novogradac & Company
Martie Bateson Sautter / Sautter Graphics and Print
Gina Su
Charlotte Whitmore

Supernova 2025
Scholar Celebration and Symposium

Individual Sponsors

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Event Speakers

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Scholar Speakers

Christine Boutros, UCSF
Frankie Gerraty, UC Santa Cruz
Tommy Luong, San Francisco State University

Supernova 2025 Panel Moderators

Tim Dunn, Abbott Diabetes Care
Jeremy Reiter, UCSF

Supernova 2025 Scholar Panelists

Tommy Luong, San Francisco State University
Adrian Wackett, Stanford University
Anthony Ozerov, UC Berkeley
Olivia Feldman, UC Davis
Yasemin Gokcen, UC Merced
Christine Boutros, UCSF
Devan Shah, UCSF
Robert Shepherd, UC Santa Cruz

Northern California Chapter
Emerita Members (30+ Years)

(as of 6/30/2025)

Thank you to our Emerita Members for over thirty years of dedication to ARCS. We are honored by your commitment and generous contributions over the years.

Janet Miller Abbott
Susan Andrews
Donna Miller Casey
Karin Chamberlain
Cynthia Coolidge
Marion Cope
Gretchen de Baubigny
Dagmar Dolby
Michele Goss
Cynthia Haueter
Fifi Holbrook
Sallie Huntting
Anne Kaiser
Jill H. Kramer
Laura Mateo
Nan McDowell
Bailey Meyer
Linda Dyer Millard
Ellen Magnin Newman
Adrianna Sullivan
Judy Swanson
Laura Waste
Diane B. Wilsey

Northern California Chapter
Founded October 22, 1970
Leadership

Founders

Phyllis De Young Tucker+
Ann Russell Miller+
Ji Ing Soong+

Past Presidents

1970–1974 Ann Russell Miller+
1974–1976 Joan Cochran+
1976–1978 Jane H. Otto+
1978–1980 Diana Knowles+
1980–1982 Ji Ing Soong+
1982–1984 Penny Devlin+
1984–1986 Gail Glasser
1986–1988 Shirley C. Freund+
1988–1990 Eileen Ludwig+
1990–1992 Dagmar Dolby
1992–1994 Susan Boeing
1994–1996 Jill Kramer
1996–1998 Elizabeth Davis Devlin
1998–2000 Donna Miller Casey
2000–2002 Mary Beth Starzel
2002–2004 Linda Millard
2004–2006 Molly Hauser+
2006–2008 Sheila Larsen
2008–2010 Vickie Johnston
2010–2012 Cynthia W. Haueter
2012–2013 Donna Miller Casey and Sheila Larsen
2013–2014 Roulhac Austin and Donna Miller Casey
2014–2015 Roulhac Austin
2015–2017 Susan Mooradian
2017–2019 Chris Simpson Brent
2019–2020 Chris Simpson Brent and MJ Whitehouse, MD
2020–2021 MJ Whitehouse, MD
2021-2022 Elizabeth Callander
2022-2023 Ellie Bingham and Katy Hope
2023-2024 Chris Simpson Brent, Deborah Mann and Leslie Van Houten

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Co-Presidents: Nancy Bush and Diana Moore
Immediate Past Presidents: Chris Simpson Brent, Deborah Mann, and Leslie Van Houten
VP, Finance: Andrea Tiller
Secretary: Jane Gardner
Co-VPs, University Relations: Heidi Huchberger and Judy Webster
Co-VPs, Membership: Barbee Callander, Glennie Eisele, and Francie Osthimer
VP, Scholar and Alum Relations: Susan Acquistapace
VP, Science Activities: Kendra Kramlich
VP, Communications: Katy Hope
Advisor at Large, Ad Hoc: Gabrielle Kivitz

Leadership/Chapter Advisory

Governance/Parliamentarian: Joanna Beam,
Leadership Advisory Council Liaisons: Janet Berry, Leslie Brenman, and Barbara Glynn

+ Deceased

Northern California Chapter Members

(as of 6/30/2025)

Janet Abbott
Susan Acquistapace
Elizabeth Kibbey Adams
Megan Anderson
Susan Andrews
Pat Applegate
Roulhac Austin
Joanna Beam
Janet Berry
Allison Bhusri
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Charlie Campbell
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Karin Chamberlain
Deborah Chesky
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Katie Cooper
Marion Cope
Pamela Rummage Culp
Lisi Bailliere Dean
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Jerry DiVecchio
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Carol Doll
Sheila Dowell
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Glennie Eisele
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Katy Hope
Melanie Horn
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Edina Jennison
Anne Kaiser
Sarah Stimson Karis
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Gretchen Kimball
Gabrielle Kivitz
Irene Kivitz
Patricia Klitgaard
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Kendra Kramlich
Laura Lambert
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Nancy Nebeker
Ellen Magnin Newman
Peggy Newton
Elaine Oldham
Francie Osthimer
Carolyn Patrick
Victoria Penfield
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Tiffany Piecewicz
Merrill Randol
Susan Raynes
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Katharine Rogers
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Martha Carlson Ryan
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Sara Schneider
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Laura Waste
Stephanie Piecewicz Watters
Judy Webster
Jeanne White
Vanessa Whitfield
Diane Wilsey
Barbara A. Wolfe
Debbie Wreyford
Anne Zerbst

Northern California Chapter Endowment Fund

The Northern California Chapter Endowment was established in 1987 with $10,000 to initiate provision for a perpetual source of funds for science scholarships. Subsequent gifts have substantially increased the corpus of the Endowment. There are two types of Endowment assets: (1) permanently restricted per donor instructions, and (2) as designated by the ARCS Foundation Northern California Chapter Board from large, unspecified donations and excess funds raised.

The Endowment offers an excellent vehicle for memorial funds and planned giving. The ARCS Foundation NCC Endowment Fund provides for establishment of named funds. Named funds established and fully funded to date are as follows:

- Katherine Hellman Black Fund
- Devlin Family Fund
- Georgiana Ducas Charitable Trust
- Dr. and Mrs. Bernard Kramer Fund
- Robert Lansdon Trust Fund
- Eileen D. and Lisa C. Ludwig Fund
- Jack Lund Fund
- Joan Diehl McCauley Fund
- Montgomery Street Foundation Fund
- Nordstrom Fund
- Ji Ing Soong Fund

In addition, the following named funds have been established by Barbara Wolfe and are in the process of being funded:

- Linda Dyer Millard Fund
- Barbara A. Wolfe Fund

If you would like more information regarding the ARCS Foundation Endowment, please call the ARCS office at 415-561-6537.

NOVOGRADAC & COMPANY LLP®

Independent Accountants' Compilation Report

To the Board of Directors of

Achievement Rewards for College Scientists Foundation, Inc.
Northern California Chapter:

Management is responsible for the accompanying financial statements of Achievement Rewards for College Scientists Foundation, Inc., Northern California Chapter (a nonprofit organization), which comprise the statement of financial position as of June 30, 2025, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We have performed a compilation engagement in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services promulgated by the Accounting and Review Services Committee of the AICPA. We did not audit or review the financial statements nor were we required to perform any procedures to verify the accuracy or completeness of the information provided by management. We do not express an opinion, a conclusion, nor provide any assurance on these financial statements.

Novogradac & Company LLP

Walnut Creek, California
October 2, 2025

ACHIEVEMENT REWARDS FOR COLLEGE SCIENTISTS FOUNDATION, INC.
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
JUNE 30, 2025

	Net Assets without Donor Restrictions	Net Assets with Donor Restrictions	Total
ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 127,142	$ -	$ 127,142
Accounts receivable	31,000	-	31,000
Prepaid expenses	600	-	600
Endowments, at fair value	5,529,230	4,426,793	9,956,023
Total assets	$ 5,687,972	$ 4,426,793	$ 10,114,765
LIABILITIES			
Accrued expenses	$ 5,956	$ -	$ 5,956
Deferred revenue	5,350	-	5,350
Total liabilities	11,306	-	11,306
NET ASSETS			
Without donor restrictions	147,436	-	147,436
Board designated endowment fund	5,529,230	-	5,529,230
Restricted endowment fund	-	4,426,793	4,426,793
Total net assets	5,676,666	4,426,793	10,103,459
Total liabilities and net assets	$ 5,687,972	$ 4,426,793	$ 10,114,765

see accompanying notes
2

ACHIEVEMENT REWARDS FOR COLLEGE SCIENTISTS FOUNDATION, INC.
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

	Net Assets without Donor Restrictions	Net Assets with Donor Restrictions	Total
SUPPORT AND REVENUE			
Grants and contributions	$ 593,198	$ 1,037	$ 594,235
Membership dues and fees	51,047	-	51,047
Scholar awards event	212,642	-	212,642
Field trips and other events	13,699	-	13,699
Endowment gain, net	486,261	396,053	882,314
Interest	3	-	3
Amounts appropriated for expenditure	300,000	(300,000)	-
Total support and revenue	1,656,850	97,090	1,753,940
EXPENSES			
Program services			
Scholar awards	1,188,000	-	1,188,000
Other program services	146,155	-	146,155
Supporting services			
Management and general	173,559	-	173,559
Fundraising	70,426	-	70,426
Total expenses	1,578,140	-	1,578,140
INCREASE IN NET ASSETS	78,710	97,090	175,800
NET ASSETS			
Beginning of the year	5,597,956	4,329,703	9,927,659
End of the year	$ 5,676,666	$ 4,426,793	$ 10,103,459

see accompanying notes

ACHIEVEMENT REWARDS FOR COLLEGE SCIENTISTS FOUNDATION, INC.
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER
STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

	Program Services	Supporting Services: Management and General	Supporting Services: Fundraising	Total Expenses
Expenses				
Grants and other assistance	$ 1,332,829	$ -	$ -	$ 1,332,829
Salaries and wages	-	62,424	1,092	63,516
Accounting and legal	-	51,050	-	51,050
Office expenses	-	13,072	-	13,072
Occupancy	-	11,171	-	11,171
Insurance	-	3,700	-	3,700
Member events	-	21,866	-	21,866
Member communications	1,326	6,540	-	7,866
Community outreach	-	-	69,334	69,334
Miscellaneous	-	3,736	-	3,736
Total expenses	$ 1,334,155	$ 173,559	$ 70,426	$ 1,578,140

see accompanying notes

ACHIEVEMENT REWARDS FOR COLLEGE SCIENTISTS FOUNDATION, INC.
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:	
Increase in net assets	$ 175,800
Adjustments to reconcile increase in net assets to net cash used in operating activities:	
Net realized and unrealized gains	(906,186)
Increase in accounts receivable	(500)
Increase in prepaid expenses	(600)
Decrease in accrued expenses	(8,276)
Decrease in accrued scholar awards	(1,170,000)
Increase in deferred revenue	5,350
Net cash used in operating activities	(1,904,412)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:	
Purchases of investments	(1,037)
Withdrawal of investments	702,000
Net cash provided by investing activities	700,963
NET DECREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(1,203,449)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	1,330,591
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF YEAR	$ 127,142

see accompanying notes
5

ACHIEVEMENT REWARDS FOR COLLEGE SCIENTISTS FOUNDATION, INC.
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JUNE 30, 2025

1. Organization

Achievement Rewards for College Scientists Foundation, Inc., Northern California Chapter (the "Organization") was formed in October 1971 and incorporated in November 1973 for the purpose of funding science scholarships for students of high achievement at Northern California universities.

2. Summary of significant accounting policies and nature of operations

Basis of accounting
The Organization prepares its financial statements on the accrual basis of accounting consistent with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("US GAAP").

Basis of presentation
The Organization is required to report information regarding its financial position and activities according to the following net asset classifications:

Net assets without donor restrictions: Net assets that are not subject to donor-imposed restrictions and may be expended for any purpose in performing the primary objectives of the Organization. These net assets may be used at the discretion of the Organization's management and the board of directors.

Net assets with donor restrictions: Net assets subject to stipulations imposed by donors and grantors. Some donor restrictions are temporary in nature, which will be met by actions of the Organization or by the passage of time. Other donor restrictions are perpetual in nature, whereby the donor has stipulated the funds be maintained in perpetuity.

Donor-restricted contributions are reported as increases in net assets with donor restrictions. When a restriction expires, net assets are reclassified from net assets with donor restrictions to net assets without donor restrictions in the statement of activities.

Estimates
The preparation of financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Cash and cash equivalents
Cash and cash equivalents include all cash balances on deposit with financial institutions and highly liquid investments with a maturity of three months or less at the date of acquisition.

Concentration of credit risk
The Organization maintains its cash in bank deposit accounts, which, at times, may exceed federally insured limits. The Organization has not experienced any losses in such accounts. The Organization believes it is not exposed to any significant credit risk on cash and cash equivalents.

2. Summary of significant accounting policies and nature of operations (continued)

Contributions and accounts receivable

Contributions received are recorded as net assets without donor restrictions or net assets with donor restrictions, depending on the existence and/or nature of any donor-imposed restrictions. Contributions that are restricted by the donor are reported as an increase in net assets without donor restrictions if the restriction expires in the reporting period in which the contribution is recognized. All other donor-restricted contributions are reported as an increase in net assets with donor restrictions, depending on the nature of restriction. When a restriction expires (that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or purpose restriction is accomplished), net assets with donor restrictions are reclassified to net assets without donor restrictions and reported in the statements of activities as net assets released from restrictions.

Unconditional promises to give that are expected to be collected within one year are recorded at net realizable value. Unconditional promises to give that are expected to be collected in future years are recorded at the present value of their estimated future cash flows. The discounts on those amounts are computed using risk-adjusted interest rates applicable to the years in which the promises are received. Discount amortization is included in contribution revenue. Conditional promises to give are not included as support until the conditions are met.

As of June 30, 2025, the Organization's contributions receivable consisted of unconditional promises to give in the amount of $31,000.

Management considers receivables to be fully collectible. If amounts become uncollectible, they are charged to operations in the period in which that determination is made. Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the allowance method be used to recognize bad debts; however, the effect of using the direct write-off method is not materially different from the results that would have been obtained under the allowance method.

Fair value measurements

The Organization applies the accounting provisions related to fair value measurements. These provisions define fair value as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date, establish a hierarchy that prioritizes the information used in developing fair value estimates and require disclosure of fair value measurements by level within the fair value hierarchy. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to quoted prices in active markets (Level 1 measurements) and the lowest priority to unobservable data (Level 3 measurements), such as the reporting entity's own data. These provisions also provide valuation techniques, such as the market approach (comparable market prices), the income approach (present value of future income or cash flows) and the cost approach (cost to replace the service capacity of an asset or replacement cost).

2. Summary of significant accounting policies and nature of operations (continued)

Fair value measurements (continued)
A financial instrument's categorization within the valuation hierarchy is based upon the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement. The three levels of valuation hierarchy are defined as follows:

Level 1: Observable inputs such as quoted prices (unadjusted) for identical assets or liabilities in active markets.

Level 2: Inputs other than quoted prices for similar assets and liabilities in active markets, and inputs that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly, for substantially the full term of the financial instrument.

Level 3: Unobservable inputs that reflect the Organization's own assumptions.

Investments
Investments in marketable securities with readily determinable fair values and all investments in debt securities are reported at their fair values in the accompanying statement of financial position. Realized and unrealized gains and losses are included as a component of net investment income on the accompanying statement of activities.

Transfers of assets to a recipient organization
The Organization will occasionally transfer assets to a recipient organization. When the Organization specifies itself or its affiliate as the beneficiary, the Organization reports the transfer as a decrease in the asset transferred and an increase in another asset.

Endowment funds
In August 2008, Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") provided guidance on the net asset classification of donor-restricted endowment funds for a not-for-profit organization that is subject to an enacted version of the Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act of 2006 ("UPMIFA"). This guidance also improves disclosures about an organization's endowed funds (both donor-restricted endowment funds and board-designated endowment funds) whether or not the organization is subject to UPMIFA.

The Organization is subject to the required disclosures in that the Organization classifies its unrealized gains and losses on donor-restricted endowed funds as net assets with donor restrictions. As of June 30, 2025, no fund balances were below the historical gift amount. The Organization is subject to additional disclosures regarding endowment funds, which are further detailed in Note 4.

Income taxes
The Organization is exempt from federal income taxes under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3) and from California income and franchise taxes under Revenue and Taxation Code Section 23701(d). It has also been determined by the Internal Revenue Service that the Organization is not a private foundation within the meaning of Internal Revenue Code Section 509(a).

2. Summary of significant accounting policies and nature of operations (continued)

Income taxes (continued)
The preparation of financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires the Organization to report information regarding its exposure to various tax positions taken by the Organization. Management has determined whether any tax positions have met the recognition threshold and has measured the Organization's exposure to those tax positions. Management believes that the Organization has adequately addressed all relevant tax positions and that there are no unrecorded tax liabilities. Federal and state tax authorities generally have the right to examine and audit the previous three years of tax returns filed. Any interest or penalties assessed to the Organization are recorded in operating expenses. No interest or penalties from federal or state tax authorities were recorded in the accompanying financial statements.

Revenue recognition
Membership dues are deferred and recognized in the appropriate membership year. Special event ticket sales are deferred and recognized when the event takes place.

Functional expenses
The costs of providing program services and other activities have been summarized on a functional basis in the statement of activities. Accordingly, certain costs have been allocated among program services, administrative and support, and fundraising services benefited. Such allocations are determined by management on an equitable basis.

Leases
The Organization determines if an arrangement is a lease at inception. An arrangement is a lease if the arrangement conveys a right to direct the use of and to obtain substantially all of the economic benefits from the use of an asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration.

Operating lease right-of-use assets and liabilities are recognized at the commencement date based on the present value of lease payments over the lease term. The Organization uses a risk-free rate at the commencement date in determining the present value of lease payments.

The operating lease right-of-use asset also includes any lease payments made and excludes lease incentives. The lease terms may include options to extend or terminate the lease when it is reasonably certain that the Organization will exercise that option. Lease expense for lease payments is recognized on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Under the Financial Accounting Standards Board Accounting Standards Codification 842, Leases, the Organization elected the available practical expedient as an accounting policy election to apply the short-term lease exception, which does not require the capitalization of leases with terms of 12 months or less.

Subsequent events
Subsequent events have been evaluated through October 2, 2025, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued, and there are no subsequent events requiring disclosure.

ACHIEVEMENT REWARDS FOR COLLEGE SCIENTISTS FOUNDATION, INC.
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JUNE 30, 2025

3. Liquidity and availability of financial assets

The Organization's financial assets available for general expenditure, that is, without donor restrictions limiting their use, within one year of the statement of financial position date, comprise the following:

Cash and cash equivalents	$ 127,142
Accounts receivable	31,000
Investments, at fair value	5,529,230
Total	$ 5,687,372

The Organization regularly monitors liquidity required to meet its operating needs and other contractual commitments, while also striving to maximize the investment of its available funds. Additionally, the Organization operates with a balanced budget and anticipates generating sufficient revenue to cover general expenditures.

4. Endowments and fair value measurements

The Organization's endowment, established in 1988, exists in perpetuity to produce income to supplement current fundraising for the Organization's annual scholar awards. Its endowment includes both donor-restricted endowment funds and funds designated by the Board of Directors to function as endowments. As required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, net assets associated with endowment funds, including funds designated by the Board of Directors to function as endowments, are classified and reported based on the existence or absence of donor-imposed restrictions.

The Organization has adopted investment and spending policies for endowment assets that attempt to provide a predictable stream of income to supplement fundraising for scholar awards as needed. Endowment assets include those assets of donor-restricted funds that the Organization must hold in perpetuity as well as board-designated funds. Under this policy, as approved by the Board of Directors, the endowment assets are invested in a manner that is intended to produce results that meet or exceed the performance results of the S&P 500 index while assuming a moderate level of investment risk. The Organization expects its endowment funds, over time, to yield an average rate of return of approximately 5-10%. Actual returns in any given year may vary from this amount.

To satisfy its long-term performance objectives, the Organization utilizes a total return strategy in which investment returns are achieved through both capital appreciation (realized and unrealized) and current yield (interest and dividends). The Organization targets a diversified asset allocation that places an emphasis on equities and fixed income investments to achieve its long-term return objectives within prudent risk constraints.

The Organization maintains a policy of appropriating no more than a 5% annual distribution of its endowment fund's average fair value over the prior 16 quarters. In establishing this policy, the Organization considered the long-term expected return on its endowment and expects the current spending policy will maintain the corpus of the endowment assets held in perpetuity as well as provide additional growth through new gifts and investment return.

ACHIEVEMENT REWARDS FOR COLLEGE SCIENTISTS
FOUNDATION, INC.
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JUNE 30, 2025

4. Endowments and fair value measurements (continued)

As of June 30, 2025, endowment net assets consisted of the following:

	Without donor restrictions	With donor restrictions	Total
Donor-restricted endowments	$ -	$ 4,426,793	$ 4,426,793
Board-designated endowments	5,529,230	-	5,529,230
Total	$ 5,529,230	$ 4,426,793	$ 9,956,023

For the year ended June 30, 2025, changes in endowment net assets consisted of the following:

	Without donor restrictions	With donor restrictions	Total
Endowment net assets, beginning of year	$ 5,421,097	$ 4,329,703	$ 9,750,800
Net investment return	510,133	396,053	906,186
Contributions	-	1,037	1,037
Withdrawals	(402,000)	-	(402,000)
Amounts appropriated for expenditure	-	(300,000)	(300,000)
Total	$ 5,529,230	$ 4,426,793	$ 9,956,023

The return on the endowments for the year ended June 30, 2025 was a net gain in the amount of $882,314, which is comprised of the following:

	Without donor restrictions	With donor restrictions	Total
Interest and dividends	$ 112,470	$ 107,367	$ 219,837
Fees	(30,677)	(24,030)	(54,707)
Net realized/unrealized gains	404,468	312,716	717,184
Total	$ 486,261	$ 396,053	$ 882,314

Donor-restricted endowments measured and recognized at fair value are comprised of the following as of June 30, 2025:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Fair Value Measurements
Money market funds	$ 58,661	$ -	$ -	$ 58,661
Fixed income	1,102,846	-	-	1,102,846
Equities	2,092,405	-	-	2,092,405
Exchange traded funds	261,746	-	-	261,746
Mutual funds	863,825	-	-	863,825
Real estate investment trusts	47,310	-	-	47,310
Total assets	$ 4,426,793	$ -	$ -	$ 4,426,793

4. Endowments and fair value measurements (continued)

Board-designated endowments measured and recognized at fair value are comprised of the following as of June 30, 2025:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Fair Value Measurements
Money market funds	$ 62,982	$ -	$ -	$ 62,982
Fixed income	1,296,912	-	-	1,296,912
Equities	2,961,078	-	-	2,961,078
Exchange traded funds	261,912	-	-	261,912
Mutual funds	879,677	-	-	879,677
Real estate investment trusts	66,669	-	-	66,669
Total assets	$ 5,529,230	$ -	$ -	$ 5,529,230

5. Office lease

On April 19, 2018, the Organization entered into a standard office lease agreement (the "Lease") with Tides, Inc., a California non-profit corporation to rent an office space in San Francisco, California. On January 9, 2020, the Lease was amended, and the lease term was renewed for an additional three-year period commencing February 1, 2020, and expiring on January 31, 2023, with monthly rent of $1,057.50 for year one, $1,092.75 for year two, and $1,128.00 for year three. In accordance with the amendment, rent shall be adjusted February 1, 2021, and every 12 months thereafter. Following the expiration of the amended lease term, the Lease was held over on a month-to-month basis.

On April 4, 2025, the Organization entered into a new standard office lease agreement (the "Lease") with Tides Network, a subtenant of Tides, Inc., with the lease term expiring April 30, 2026, and total rent of $7,200 due in monthly installments. For the year ended June 30, 2025, office lease expense was $11,171.

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