



# **2022 SCHOLARS' DAY CELEBRATION**

## ***LAUNCHING INTO THE FUTURE***

June 11, 2022 | 9:30AM - 12PM

Long Beach Yacht Club | 6201 E. Appian Way









# 2022 SCHOLARS' DAY CELEBRATION

*Welcome back!*

Oh how we've missed you!

As we gather in person for our 27th annual Scholars' Day — the first in three years — we come together with a renewed sense of purpose and a deep sense of gratitude for human connection!

Today we celebrate more than the culmination of diplomas and degrees. Today, we celebrate resiliency. We celebrate community. And, we celebrate you — our circle of supporters both in attendance at this event or committed as key sponsors donating to the mission of OJS for the remainder of 2022.

Thank you for your presence and for your dedication to amplifying the success of deserving OJS scholars everyday forward!

To our scholars and their families — we are ready to launch into a prosperous future with you. Together we achieve our best. Together we are unstoppable.

Kindly,

Irene Quevedo  
Executive Director



## *Event Program*

**9:30 AM** ----- Check-In/Breakfast Buffet Begins

**10:00 AM** ----- Program Begins

**Micah Bournes**  
Opening Poem

**Dr. Craig Smith**  
Welcome Address

**Councilwoman Suzie Price**  
Keynote Speaker  
*Introduction by Kathie Chapman*

**Esmeralda Benitez & Edwin Torres**  
OJS Mission Moment

**Scholarships & Student Awards Presentations**

**Class of 2022 Highlight**

**Catalina Del Carmen Maldonado**  
Making an Impact

**Irene Quevedo, Executive Director**  
Closing Remarks



## *Graduating Seniors*

A huge congratulations to all of Operation Jump Start's Class of 2022 seniors! Your hard work and dedication have paid off. We are proud to be a part of your pursuit of higher education!

### **Class of 2022 High School Graduates**

Abril Rosas — Long Beach City College  
Alexis Salazar — Long Beach City College  
Alex Suarez — Long Beach City College  
Amanda Garcia — Long Beach City College  
Angel Carcamo — Long Beach City College  
Angel Martinez — California State University, Long Beach  
Anthony Marcos — Long Beach City College  
Cristian Torres — California State University, Long Beach  
David Reyes — California State University, Long Beach  
Daynna Rosales — University of California, Berkeley  
Edwin Torres — Long Beach City College  
Elias Banos — Long Beach City College  
Erik Gomez — California State University, Long Beach  
Esmeralda Benitez — University of California, Berkeley  
Esmeralda Hernandez-Cruz — California State University, Long Beach  
Jazmin Guerrero — Long Beach City College  
Jessica Vallejo — California State University, Long Beach  
Michael Moku — University of California, Santa Barbara  
Natalie Iniguez — University of California, Berkeley  
Nathan Cardoso — Long Beach City College  
Samantha Ho — Long Beach City College  
Stephanie Delgado Campos — Long Beach City College  
Wendonisha Ortiz — Long Beach City College

## *Congratulations!!*





## *Graduating Seniors*

We are thrilled to highlight Operation Jump Start's college graduates. These 12 incredible students are true examples of OJS's mission in action!

### **Class of 2022 College Graduates**

Abraham Soto — University of California, Santa Barbara  
Alina Dan — University of California, Berkeley  
Antony Alvarado — University of Rochester  
Avey Songco — University of California, Berkeley  
Diana Perez — California State University, Long Beach  
Erin Williams — Woodbury University  
Giselle Perez-Garay — California State University, Long Beach  
Griselda Chicas — University of California, Santa Cruz  
Jalen Shelton — California State University, San Bernardino  
Justin Tun — University of California, San Diego  
Rebecca Swaffield — California State University, Dominguez Hills  
Richard Chea — University of California, Riverside

## *Congratulations!!*



*Scan me!*

## *Scholars' Day Keynote*



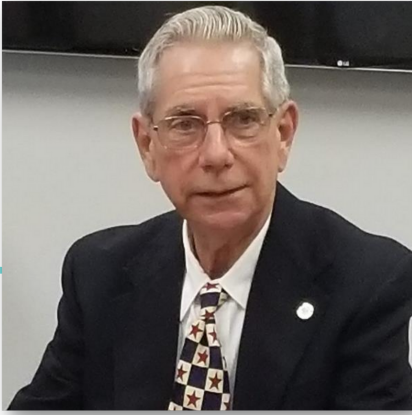
### **Suzie Price Councilwoman, 3rd District**

Suzie Price was sworn into the Long Beach City Council as the 3rd District Councilwoman on July 15, 2014 and reelected in 2018. Councilwoman Price is an Honorary Board Member of the Women Shelter of Long Beach and on the Advisory Committee of Long Beach Ronald McDonald House. Price has served as a Senior Deputy District Attorney for over 20 years. She graduated from California State University, Long Beach with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and a Masters degree in Public Policy and Administration.

In 1999, Suzie graduated from Santa Clara University with a Juris Doctorate degree. Councilwoman Price and her husband, Mark, live in Alamitos Heights with their two sons who attend a local Middle School and High School, where Suzie has been an active member of the Parent Teacher Association. Suzie and her family have the love and support of her mother who resides in the Marina Pacifica residential community.



## About our Speakers:



**Dr. Craig Smith**

Smith is a scholar of freedom of expression, rhetorical theory and public address criticism. He served as a speechwriter for Presidents Gerald Ford and George H.W. Bush, an experience that is recounted in *Confessions of a Presidential Speechwriter*, Smith's 2014 memoir. After working as a speech writer and then forming the Communication Division at the University of Alabama, Birmingham, he returned to Washington to serve as the Director of Senate Services for the Republican Conference of the U.S. In 1988, Smith founded the Center for First Amendment Studies at California State University, Long Beach.



Catalina Del Carmen is a first-generation Guatemalan-American. She is a business coach, podcaster, wife and soon-to-be mother of two. She has a business degree from San Jose State University, which took her over ten years to complete. After she graduated, she built a tech career in HR and Sales at Fortune 500 Companies and decided to leave Silicon Valley to go all into her coaching business. Now, Catalina runs a multiple six-figure coaching business and was recently featured in the *New York Times* thanks to her successful rise as an entrepreneur. Catalina was raised by a single immigrant mother whose goal in life was to raise her daughters to get a college degree. Her mother put her in programs like Operation Jump Start, where she got to visit colleges and got help applying to different schools. Her testimonial will focus on the power of perseverance for success, especially coming from her lived experience as a Latinx first-gen woman!



**Catalina Del Carmen  
Maldonado**





# Scholarships

## **The 8th Annual Erik Fitzpatrick Memorial Scholarship - \$3,000+**

The Erik Fitzpatrick Scholarship honors the enduring memory of a man whose life goal was to help others. This award is given to a senior who values service above self, expanding on Erik's deep desire to better mankind. This scholarship was initiated by Erik's mother, Roberta Hamfeldt, who was inspired by her son's stalwart principles and selflessness. Roberta, whom everyone at OJS knows as Bobbie, is a long-time OJS mentor and a champion of transformative change among the most underserved communities.

## **The Henry J. Meyer Scholarship — \$1,000**

Successful entrepreneur and owner of Hamburger Henry's, Henry J. Meyer was a former board member and long-time supporter of OJS. Henry's success was built through a support system and did not happen overnight. The Henry J. Meyer Endowment Scholarship is awarded to a student that found success through a helping hand despite the struggle.

## **The 18th Annual Mike Fry Memorial Scholarship — \$1,000**

The Mike Fry Memorial Scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior who demonstrates dedication to community service. Mike Fry believed in making his community a better place. He spent many years volunteering with Operation Jump Start. Every year this scholarship honors the legacy of Mike Fry's incredible spirit of generosity and public service.

## **The 4th Annual White Eagle Scholarship — \$1,000**

The White Eagle Scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior from a local family that has been especially blessed and happy to share blessings with others facing new challenges in life. Let's explain the name of the "White Eagle." On many of the Native American medicine wheels, White is the color of the North. It represents the place of the intellect, knowledge, logic, and wisdom. That seems like a good place to start on a college path. Also in these traditions, the Eagle is a revered creation that flies highest, and sees farthest, it represents great vision. Of all the creatures its sight is closest to what the great spirit sees. This family hopes and trusts that the recipients of these scholarships, as they move on to and through the college experience, not only grow in knowledge and wisdom but find a greater vision that serves them well and that can lead them effectively in life.



## **White Eagle STEM Scholarship — \$1,000**

In addition to the White Eagle Scholarship, this generous donor will be awarding another \$1,000 to a student who is pursuing a career in STEM. Students pursuing a career in STEM were encouraged to apply to this scholarship.

## **Kathryn Chapman Community Service Award — \$1,000**

Long-time supporter and former mentor Kathryn Chapman is an outstanding OJS hero for her unwavering support and philanthropic efforts. The Kathryn Chapman Community Service Award is awarded to a graduating senior for exhibiting exemplary dedication and commitment to making a positive impact on their community.

## **Alvarez-Guzman Scholarship — \$1,000**

The Alvarez-Guzman scholarship was created by an OJS alumna, Mayra Alvarez, and her family. Mayra Alvarez was an OJS student, OJS program assistant and now our MSW internship program field instructor. Mayra enjoys homeschooling her boys and traveling! Her family believes that traveling should be as much about learning and making a difference in the world as it is about seeing it. They strongly believe that travel experiences allow people to explore different interests, expand their horizons, gain inspiration and elevate aspirations for future academic and life success, and allow them to learn and interact with others from diverse backgrounds. In this scholarship, students were asked where they would like to travel, who they would want to go with and why. In addition, they had to describe a specific problem that the community/location is facing (i.e., environmental, poverty, human rights, social justice) and a way that they could pay it forward and make a difference while traveling there.

## **Henry-Schwartz Scholarship — \$1,000**

The Henry-Schwartz Scholarship was created and funded by a former mentor and her former mentee who developed a lifelong bond and was empowered to use our story to help change the lives of youth and future generations. Based on our own experiences, we know that many students don't apply for scholarships because they believe there's too much competition and that their chances of winning are slim. We also are aware of the lack of scholarship opportunities in underserved communities. Today, we encourage you to live in life and not in fear. We hope that this scholarship opportunity will be a leap of faith that will inspire you to conquer your dreams and not defer them by placing limitations on your own life. Note: there will be 2 winners for this Scholarship at \$1,000 each.



## *Student Notes*

### **Messages from our Youth Leadership Ambassadors to our graduating senior class!**

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Congratulations class of 2022!

We were the first class to be fully in person after 2 years of online school, and while it was a difficult year to get through, WE DID IT! I'm really happy to see that we are taking advantage of the opportunity to go to college, something our parents were unable to do. I know that they're proud of us for taking such a big step for our futures so that we won't have to struggle as much as they did. As first-generation students', our journey towards graduating and getting a degree is going to be difficult, but at the end of the day, it's going to be worth it when we make everyone who helped us get here proud. If other people have done it, why can't we?

**-Esmeralda Benitez, YLA President**

Congratulations to OJS's Class of 2022 for overcoming every obstacle that has been thrown at you over the past few years and making the most out of all situations. Every all-nighter and difficult exam that you have taken on without complaint has led to you walking across that stage and receiving your diploma. I am so proud of the differences that we made, the adversities that we challenged, and the friendships that we built as part of Operation Jump Start community. Although saying goodbye is somewhat bittersweet, just remember that you are the resilience of every parent, friend, and teacher who has supported you and the strength of future-change makers.

**- Natalie Iniguez, YLA Vice President**





To the OJS seniors, class of 2022....

Congratulations! We did it! We can all agree that coming back from a virtual academic year was difficult to process and that this was going to be the last year of our high school experience. I hope all seniors celebrate their academic achievements and involvement in Operation Jump Start. As the YLA historian, I am so proud of each and everyone one of you, and I cannot wait to see what the future holds for all of us! I hope to cross paths in the future with all you amazing seniors, and I wish you the best in your future! It took a lot of hard work to reach this goal. We all had to show up every day, whether we felt like it or not. I hope every senior takes this moment to realize how far we have come together, and I hope you'll continue to be a person who shows up no matter how difficult it can be. Congratulations on your graduation and best wishes for your next adventure!

- Stephanie Delgado-Campos, YLA Historian

Congratulations class of 2022!

Graduation is right around the corner. It's crazy to think that we accomplished so much in the past 4 years. It's an accomplishment that we managed to get through online school and be able to come back to in person this year. Some have been in Operation Jump Start longer than others but we can all agree that this program has helped us out a lot. It's surprising to think about the new friendships we made in this program. To think that when we started high school we thought 4 years was a lot and would go by so slow. Now we are here a few weeks before graduation. I hope you all do nothing but the best in the future and maybe one day cross paths. Once again, Congratulations class of 2022 we finally made it!!

- Esmeralda Hernandez-Cruz, YLA Senior



Congratulations OJS Seniors, Class of 2022!

After 4 years, here we are ready to move the tassel to the other side of our graduation cap. We did it! I'm proud of all seniors for working so hard and never giving up. Now it's time to get recognized for all your hard work at Scholar's day! As we went from our first day of preschool to our last day of high school, you've all grown and accomplished many things and graduating is another accomplishment you can add to the list and I'm sure you will continue to thrive in college. To the next chapters of our lives, I wish you all the best and an amazing future in what you choose to pursue. You guys are going to do great things and always remember you have your OJS family.

- Jessica Vallejo, YLA Senior







# *Make an Impact*

**Be a Champion for Long Beach Students**



Want to support Operation Jump Start students and programming? We kindly ask you to consider making a donation. Your support ensures that low-income, first-generation students have the resources they need to succeed. We can't do it without your help!

**Donate today at [OJSLB.org](https://OJSLB.org)**



*Scan me!*





## *Our Leadership*

We are grateful for the countless volunteers and mentors, sponsors, and community partners who dedicate not just financial resources, but their time and energy to support our students and mission.

The Board of Directors and staff are incredibly appreciative of you all!

### **Board of Directors**

Jane Bemis, President  
Mark Christoffels, Co-Vice President  
Kellina Anderson, Co-Vice President  
Rick Nolan, Secretary  
Lawrence Triesch, Treasurer  
Joe Arismendez  
Deborah Mayes  
Ralphie Giron

### **Advisory Council**

Walt & Diann Zenda, Founders  
Charles Russell, Attorney  
Kathryn Chapman, Community Champion

### **Staff**

Irene Quevedo, Executive Director  
Maria Alvarez, Program Director  
Rebecca Ridge, Community Outreach Supervisor  
Chelsea Chamroeun, Community Outreach Coordinator  
Emily Garcia, Student Success Coordinator  
Kevin Melvin, Student Access Coordinator  
Karen Ortiz, Program Assistant  
Mayra Alvarez, LCSW, MSW Field Instructor  
Natalie Paiz, Tutoring Lab Coordinator  
Jasmine Carpena, Tutor



## Thank you to Operation Jump Start's 2022 Sponsors!

OJS Exclusive Mission Sponsor:

— Lisa & Frank —  
**CHAPMAN**

OJS Table Sponsors:

Diann & Walt Zenda  
John Case  
Joe Arismendez  
Ron Arias

Al & Barbara Regnier  
Jane Bemis  
Ralphie Giron  
Mark Schulten

Colleen & Lawrence Triesch  
Kellina Anderson & George Sunny  
Linda Frankel & Alan Sherry

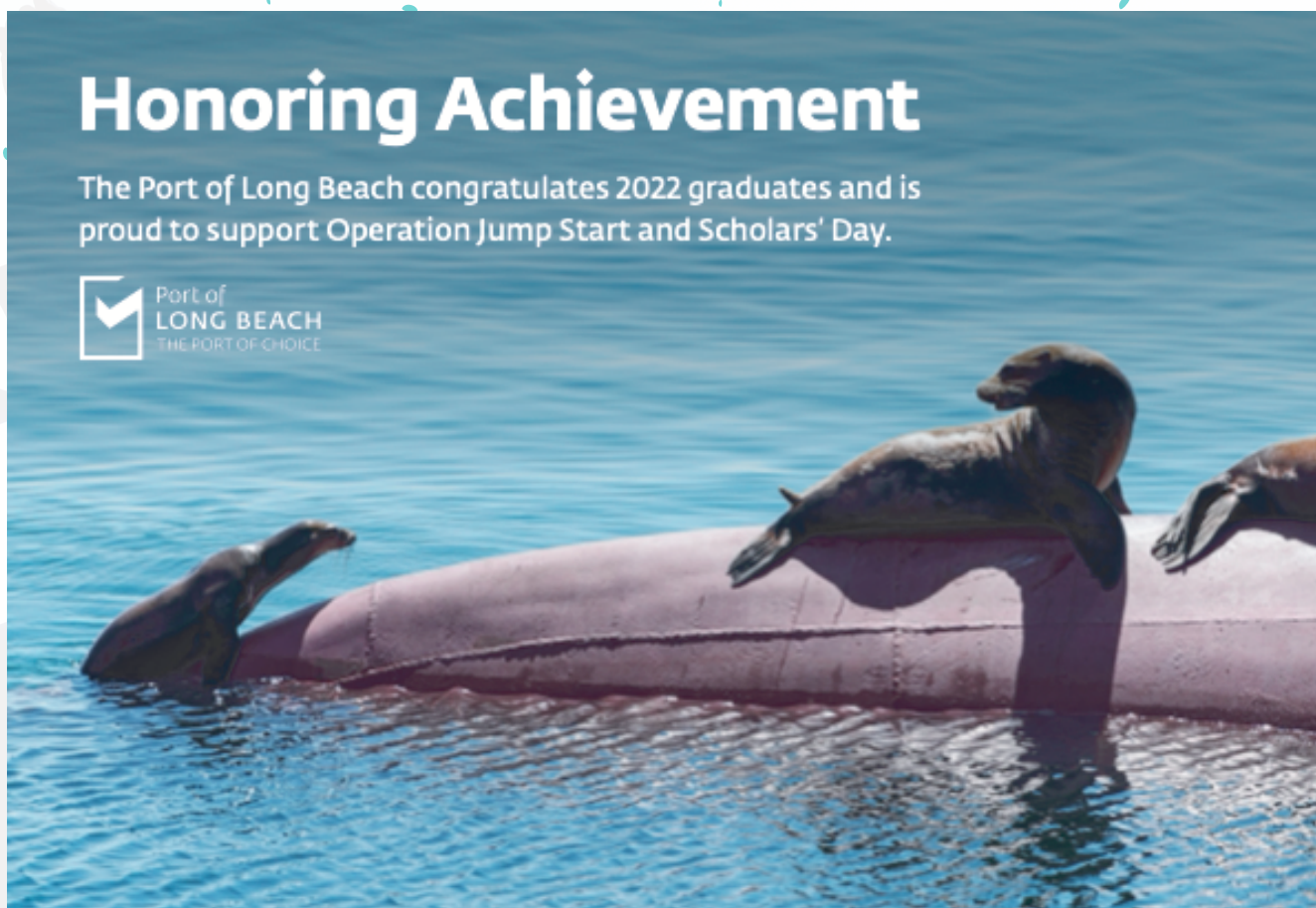
A very special *thank you* to our venue sponsor,  
Kathryn "Kathie" Chapman.

Making our world  
more productive



## Honoring Achievement

The Port of Long Beach congratulates 2022 graduates and is proud to support Operation Jump Start and Scholars' Day.





## Thank you to our guest poet, Micah Bournes!



Micah Bournes is a musician and poet born and raised in Long Beach, California. His work centers themes of culture, justice, and faith. He is passionate about helping others identify and grow their creativity, convinced that creative expression is essential to individual and community healing and thriving. For over a decade he has toured the world performing and teaching creative writing workshops. He is the author of the poetry collection “Here Comes This Dreamer”, and has released 6 studio albums in various genres, including his latest hip hop record “DETOX.”

## MENTORS NEEDED!

Empower Long Beach Youth to reach higher levels of excellence.



**Becoming a mentor is EASY!**  
Visit [operationjumpstart.org](http://operationjumpstart.org) to apply today!



## *Become an OJS Hero!*

### JOIN THE GIVING CIRCLE

Your monthly investment in any amount give underserved youth opportunities to flourish through academic support, mentoring, and exposure to a broader world. Monthly support has been proven to be one of the most effective methods to promote change.

### Make a life-long impact today.

**\$500/Mo**

Sends 6 students to an experience of a lifetime through our Exposure to a Broader World program, expanding their horizons. (Only \$16.66/day)

**\$250/Mo**

Supports an interactive career fair where students learn about different career opportunities and how to network. (Only \$8.33/day)

**\$100/Mo**

Funds one cultural or community service event outing for 50 OJS scholars and their mentors. (Only \$3.33/day)

**\$50/Mo**

Funds transportation for 50 OJS scholars and mentors to visit a college or university. (Only \$1.66/day)

**\$25/Mo**

Supports one session of bi-weekly Junior or Senior Supper Club, the yearlong college prep curriculum delivered in family-dinner setting. (Only \$0.83/day)

**SIGN UP today at  
OJSLB.org**



*Scan me!*



**Operation Jump Start  
Exclusive Mission Sponsor:**

— Lisa & Frank —  
**CHAPMAN**

On behalf of all of our students, staff, board members, and  
community partners...

*Thank you!*

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