



2023 SCHOLARS' DAY CELEBRATION

EVENT
PROGRAM





Welcome to Scholars' Day 2023.

It's an honor to celebrate today with everyone in attendance, especially our impressive senior class. This year, we proudly recognize 33 high school graduates headed to colleges across the country.

Many of these scholars will attend their dream schools in the fall — from UCLA to Barnard College — this year's class is also one of the most well-rounded OJS has ever seen. Students are headed to amazing higher education institutions with over 15 different colleges selected.

This year's graduating class also saw one of their own earn the coveted distinction of Gates Millennium Scholar with that student headed to John Hopkins University! What an astounding cohort of young minds. These are the minds of leaders, innovators, and critical thinkers. Their colleges are indelibly lucky to have them, and I, for one, couldn't be happier to see them go out into the world and continue to flourish.

To watch these students excel in the face of countless challenges including a global pandemic during their high school years is a testament to their commitment and willingness to work hard regardless of challenging circumstances. These remarkable students deserve every bit of opportunity they've created for themselves.

To our esteemed guests, thank you for giving us your time and endless support. Our students are a reflection of your commitment to OJS. An experience that is made possible thanks to many of our donors in attendance today. Thank you for your ongoing kindness and generosity. OJS scholars all pay it forward by transforming, not only their lives through education but the lives of all they meet.

With endless gratitude,
Irene Quevedo
Operation Jump Start
Executive Director

2023 SCHOLARS' DAY
CELEBRATION

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

9:30 AM — Continental Breakfast

10 AM — Program Begins

Class of 2023 Student Emcees
Andrea Gaona & Jason Perez

Keynote Address
Jamar D. Davis, Esq.

2023 Commitment to Youth Awards
Ruth Lisha — Franklin Middle School
Pamela Canlas — Jordan High School

OJS Mission Moments
Anahi Hernandez, OJS Alumna & Class of 2023 College Graduate
Maritza Recinos, OJS Mentor

Class of 2023 Highlight
See page 5 for a full list of names and schools

Scholarship Awards
See page 7 for a full list of scholarships

Closing Remarks
Irene Quevedo, OJS Executive Director



2023 KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Jamar D. Davis is an associate attorney at Littler Mendelson P.C. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Southern California and his Doctor of Jurisprudence (JD) degree from Loyola Law School, Los Angeles. While obtaining his undergraduate degree, Jamar founded a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to providing education and mentorship resources for underserved youth in the South Central area. While in law school, Jamar participated in several extracurricular activities, where he worked to expose middle school, high school, and college graduates to the benefits of pursuing advanced degrees. Jamar currently serves as a mentor for Operation Jump Start.



Jamar D. Davis, Esq.

As an attorney at Littler, Jamar D. Davis advises and represents employers in a broad range of labor and employment law matters arising under both state and federal law, including discrimination, harassment, retaliation, wrongful termination, and wage and hour claims. He also has experience with wage and hour class actions and employment practices audits.

Prior to joining Littler, Jamar volunteered at the Center for Human Rights and Constitutional Law, a nonprofit, public-interest legal foundation dedicated to furthering and protecting the civil, constitutional, and human rights of immigrants, refugees, children, prisoners, and the poor.

During law school, Jamar was the executive editor for the Loyola of Los Angeles Entertainment Law Review and a member of the Scott Moot Court Honors Board. He was an Appellate Advocacy teaching assistant and served as the treasurer for the Black Law Students Association (BLSA). During both summers in law school, Jamar was a summer associate in Littler's Los Angeles office.

As a first-generation low-income college graduate, Jamar is a firm believer that anyone, no matter their background, can achieve success in higher education endeavors if given adequate resources and guidance.

"Talent is equally distributed, opportunity is not." - Leila Janah

GRADUATING SENIORS & SELECTED COLLEGES

Alan Crisp — California State University, Long Beach
Alixma Velazquez — California State University, Long Beach
Andrea Gaona — University of California, Santa Barbara
Angel Gonzalez — Long Beach City College
Anthony Hernandez — California State University, Bakersfield
Arlene Franco — Wellesley College
Bryan Rosas — Long Beach City College
Carly Sanchez — Barnard College
Daisy Delgado — California State University, Long Beach
David Perez — California State University, Long Beach
Destiny Murillo — California State University, Long Beach
Emily Martinez — Long Beach City College
Erik Perez — Long Beach City College
Jackeline Lopez — University of California, Irvine
James Hernandez — California State University, Chico
Jason Perez — Johns Hopkins University
Joseph Alvarado Parra — Long Beach City College
Joshua Vargas Barcena — California State University, Long Beach
Karen Tan — University of California, Irvine
Karina Montellano — Cypress College
Maria Del Carmen Hurtado — University of California, Davis
Mia Sanchez — University of California, Irvine
Nicole Calamaco — California State University, Long Beach
Noemi Corona — Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
Perla Giles — Washington University
Ponciano Casas — California State University, Long Beach
Sireeia Brown — University of California, Los Angeles
Trinidad Villalobos — California State University, Dominguez Hills
Vanessa Marquez — Long Beach City College
Victoria Nhean — University of California, San Diego
Yina Marin — University of California, Los Angeles
Zhiyou Zhu — University of California, Irvine
Gabriela Chavez Isordia — To Be Announced

CLASS OF 2023 COLLEGE GRADUATES

Alondra Torres - California State University, Fullerton
B.S. Public Health Administration Minor in Biology

Anahi Hernandez - California State University, Long Beach
B.A. Family Life Education Minor in Gerontology

Emmanuel Torres- California State University, Long Beach
B.A. Economics

Jessica Pascual -California State University, Long Beach
B.S. Health Science Community Health Education

Jhoana Perez Garay -University California, Davis
B.A. International Relations and Spanish

Maritza Sanchez - California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
B.S. Buisness Administration

Sarah Alvarado Jimenez -California State University, Long Beach
B.S. Health Science Community Health Education

Sergio Diaz- University California, Irvine
B.A. Sociology

Stacy Uriarte - Chapman University
B.A. Psychology Minor in Health Science

Stephanie Abad- Pepperdine University
B.A. Psychology Minor in Social Work

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Henry J. Meyer Scholarship: \$500+

Successful entrepreneur and owner of Hamburger Henry's. Henry J. Meyer was a former board member and long-time supporter of OJS. The Henry J. Meyer Endowment Scholarship is awarded to a student that found success through a helping hand despite the struggle.

The 19th Annual Mike Fry Memorial Scholarship: \$1,000

The Mike Fry Memorial Scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior with demonstrated 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.

White Eagle Scholarship: 1st Place - \$1,000, 2nd Place - \$500

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. The White Eagle Scholarship was created with these concepts in mind. 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. The White Eagle Scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior selected based on their response to the following prompt: "We learn from failure, not from success.' What failures have taught you the most in your high school years?"

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 for this scholarship. Winners were selected based on their submissions to the following prompt: British mathematician and physicist Stephen Hawking said: 'We are just an advanced breed of monkeys on a minor planet of a very average star. But we can understand the Universe. That makes us something very special.' How will your college study of science or technology make you a special human?

SCHOLARSHIPS

Kathryn Chapman Community Service Award: \$1,000

Long-time supporter and 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.

2023 Alvarez-Guzman Scholarship:

1st Place - \$1,000, 2nd Place - \$750, 3rd Place - \$500

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 OJS 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 how they could pay it forward and make a difference while traveling there.

2023 Rafael & Nelly Galindo Scholarship:

1st Place - \$1,000, 2nd Place - \$500

The Rafael & Nelly Galindo scholarship was created by an OJS mentor in honor of their parents. Rafael and Nelly immigrated from Cuba in 1960 escaping the Castro regime. With only an elementary education, they valued and understood the power of a higher education, they instilled that in their children. This scholarship honors not only students' academic achievements and career goals but celebrates their creativity by asking the student to submit their responses in the form of a video, original poem, original song, or a traditional essay. The 2023 prompt asks the student to describe their educational goals and explain the inspiration for their choice of career.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Henry-Schwartz Scholarship: \$500

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.

Erik Fitzpatrick Memorial Scholarship: \$4,000+

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.

Thank you to the following individuals for donating to make the Erik Fitzpatrick Memorial Scholarship possible:

Robert Hamfeldt
Sue Easterby
Patricia Reid
Martha Treadway
Janet Thomasser
Janet Colbert,

Judith Morrill
Jacquelynne McReynolds
Pamela Peters
Gayle Blume
Richard Mercado
Thomas Mone

LEADERSHIP

Staff

Irene Quevedo — Executive Director
Maria Alvarez — Program Director
Rebecca Ridge — Community Outreach Supervisor
Emily Garcia — Program Manager
Chelsea Chamroeun — Community Outreach Coordinator
Kevin Melvin — Student Access Coordinator
Valerie Tellez — Office Coordinator
Jasmine Carpena — Tutor
Tara Buckley — MSW Intern Field Instructor

Board of Directors

Jane Bemis - Board President
Mark Christoffels - Board Co-Vice President
Kellina Anderson - Board Co-Vice President
Rick Nolan - Board Secretary
Lawrence Triesch - Board Treasurer
Deborah Mayes
Rachel Davis
Joe Arismendez
Justin Grayson
Edoardo Savi

Advisory Council

Walt and Diann Zenda — Founders
Charles Russell — Attorney
Kathryn Chapman — Community Champion

A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR 2023 SPONSORS

2023 Mission Sponsor

— Lisa & Frank —
CHAPMAN

Venue Sponsor

Kathryn Chapman

Table Sponsors

Jane Bemis, Cheryl Burnett, Al Regnier, Joe Arismendez, Diann and
Walt Zenda, Rick Nolan, Colleen and Lawrence Triesch

Event Sponsors



Thank you to the Port of Long Beach! Official

2023 SDC Sponsor



Building the Future

The Port of Long Beach partners with our local educational institutions to develop the workforce of tomorrow. We are proud to support Operation Jump Start and the 2023 Scholars' Day Celebration.



Port of
LONG BEACH
THE GREEN PORT

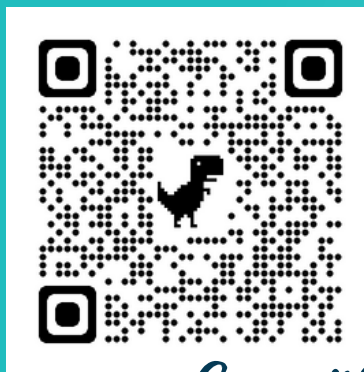
MAKE AN IMPACT

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

OJSLB.org



Scan me!

Become an OJS Hero...

JOIN THE GIVING CIRCLE

The Giving Circle is OJS' recurring monthly supporters' group. Your monthly gift in any amount provides 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. They allow us to rely on some consistency when it comes to individual contributions. As a monthly donor, you ultimately help us save time and money - which gets invested in direct student support instead of pursuing new donors each year.

MAKE A SUSTAINED 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 a family-dinner setting. (Only \$0.83/day)



Scan me!

Don't forget to click 'Make this donation monthly' to join The Giving Circle!

2023 SCHOLARS' DAY CELEBRATION



3515 Linden Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90807
562-988-2131
ojs@operationjumpstart.org



[@opjumpstartlb](https://www.instagram.com/opjumpstartlb)

Operation Jump Start is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization with the federal nonprofit ID#33-0629895. Qualified donations are tax deductible.



2023
SCHOLARS' DAY
CELEBRATION

2023 Mission Sponsor

— Lisa & Frank —
CHAPMAN