



# 2024 Scholars' Day Celebration

## Event Program

**June 8, 2024**  
**Long Beach Yacht Club**

# Welcome

Hello & Welcome to Scholars' Day 2024!

This year, we're in full celebration mode as Operation Jump Start celebrates three impactful decades since its founding! For thirty years, our beloved community-based organization has been turning college dreams into reality. We are a staple in the Long Beach community, synonymous with longstanding success. We owe this reputation and staying power to the amazing people in our circle of supporters: thriving students, devoted families, and our ever-enthusiastic mentors, donors, and community partners!

Twenty-twenty-four has been nothing short of spectacular. We've shattered records, serving more students across Long Beach than ever before, and today, we're celebrating our largest graduating senior class yet! Through the years hundreds of students have journeyed with us toward their higher education goals. They've earned degrees, stayed connected with their dedicated OJS mentors, and returned to Long Beach as successful, inspiring members of society. It's a joy to see OJS alumni come back, ready to mentor new scholars and contribute to scholarships for future generations. Watching OJS scholars succeed and return to Long Beach to make a lasting impact is the ultimate reward!

Feeling inspired to make a difference just like them? Well, you've come to the right place! During this morning's event, if today's program moves you, consider signing up to mentor, donate, or engage with our vibrant community. Visit [OJSlb.org](https://OJSlb.org) or chat with any of our amazing staff and board members here today to learn more about getting involved.

Thank you for being here and, in advance, for your generosity in supporting OJS' mission to turn college dreams into reality for first-gen students. Let's keep thriving together for another thirty years!

Kindly,



Irene Quevedo  
Operation Jump Start  
Chief Executive Officer

# Schedule of Events

9:30 AM — Continental Breakfast

10 AM — Program Begins

## **Class of 2024 Student Masters of Ceremonies**

Elissa Garcia & Gianluca Alvarez

## **Keynote Speaker**

Mayor Rex Richardson

*Inspiring Excellence in Youth Award*

## **2024 Commitment to Youth Awards**

Colleen Triesch, Operation Jump Start Mentor

Mark Sklan, Operation Jump Start Mentor

Presented by Irene Quevedo, OJS Chief Executive Officer

## **OJS Mission Moment**

Maricela Pérez, Operation Jump Start Parent

## **Class of 2024 Highlight**

See pages 5 - 7 for a full list of names and schools

## **Scholarship Awards**

See page 8 for a full list of scholarships

## **Keynote Speaker**

Michele Siqueiros, President of the Campaign for College Opportunity

*Trailblazer in Education Award*

## **Closing Remarks**

Rebecca Ridge, OJS Community Outreach Manager

# 2024 Keynote Speaker

Rex Richardson is a husband, father, and the 29th Mayor of Long Beach. Mayor Richardson's history in Long Beach is grounded in empowering communities to have a seat at the table.

Mayor Richardson has a distinguished record of public service. Richardson's electoral history includes serving as a Long Beach City Councilmember from 2014 – 2022, representing the Ninth District. He served two terms as Vice Mayor and is known as both the youngest Council Member and Vice Mayor in the city's history. He also broke barriers as the first African American Mayor of Long Beach.



**Rex Richardson,  
Long Beach Mayor**

His track record of pursuing positive change for his community has left an indelible mark on the entire city. He has continually worked alongside neighborhood leaders to bring vital public safety, economic, and community investments to Long Beach.

On the national level, Mayor Richardson serves on the Advisory Board of the United States Conference of Mayors. Regionally, Richardson is Vice Chair of the Los Angeles County Affordable Housing Solutions Agency and has previously served as past President of the Southern California Association of Governments. He has also held the position of Western District Cities Representative on the South Coast Air Quality Management District Governing Board.

Since taking office, Mayor Richardson has been at the forefront of addressing the most pressing challenges facing Long Beach through his "Opportunity Beach" Agenda, which focused on key priorities such as homelessness, economic recovery, public safety, youth development, and environmental sustainability.

Mayor Richardson and his wife, Dr. Nina Richardson, are proudly raising their two young daughters, Alina and Mila, in the North Long Beach community. He understands the work and determination it takes for families and communities to climb into the middle class. He believes that everyone, no matter their circumstance, deserves the opportunity to thrive.

# 2024 Keynote Speaker

Michele Siqueiros was the first in her family to graduate from college. She is passionate about the power of college to change lives, and the ability of policy-making to expand opportunity. Since 2008, she has served as the President of The Campaign for College Opportunity and has led historic higher education policy budget and legislative reforms in California that make it easier for students to transfer from community college to a four-year university, and access college-level courses and financial aid.

The Campaign has successfully secured millions of additional state dollars to expand student enrollment and improve student outcomes and championed efforts to increase access to Pell Grants, protect Cal Grant funding, support undocumented students, and reform community college pathways.

Prior to joining the Campaign in 2004, Michele worked for the City of Los Angeles Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, she helped co-found Public Allies Los Angeles in 1998, and worked for the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO).

Michele has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Pitzer College and a Master of Arts from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). In 2019 she was appointed by Senate Pro Tem Leader Atkins to the Student Centered Funding Formula Oversight Committee. In 2020 Governor Newsom asked her to serve on the California Higher Education Recovery with Equity Taskforce. She previously served on the California Student Aid Commission as a gubernatorial appointee and on the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners as a Mayoral appointee from 2005-2010.



**Michele Siqueiros,  
President of The Campaign for  
College Opportunity**

*"I have full faith in the quintessential American promise: that someone who grows up in poverty – with ambition and some opportunity – can do great things and contribute to forming a more perfect union. Higher education is the opportunity that makes this promise possible."*

# Graduating Seniors and Selected Colleges

**Abraham Pineda**

— California State University, Long Beach

**Alexis Herrera**

— Long Beach City College

**Amir Curry**

— California State University, Long Beach

**Ana Gonzalez Ortiz**

— California State University, Long Beach

**Angelo Marquez**

— Long Beach City College

**Anthony Magana Perez**

— Long Beach City College

**Ashley Macias Casas**

— Long Beach City College

**Brian Torres**

— California State University, Long Beach

**Brianna Martinez**

— Long Beach City College

**Carlo Hidalgo**

- Undecided

**Corazon Ornelas**

— California State University, Dominguez

**Dallany Ramirez Luquin**

- Undecided

**Darlin Garrido**

— California State University, Long Beach

**Destinee Salazar**

— University of California, Los Angeles

**Dwayne Love**

— Whittier College

**Elaine Hernandez**

— California State University, Fullerton

**Elisa Cruz**

— Long Beach City College

**Elissa Garcia**

— Soka University

**Evelyn Hernandez**

— University of California, Irvine

**Fernanda Antillon**

— California State University, Long Beach





# Graduating Seniors and Selected Colleges

**Gianluca Alvarez**

— University of California, Berkeley

**Grace Antillon**

— Whittier College

**Heaven Herrera**

— Long Beach City College

**Ivy Salazar**

— University of California, Santa Cruz

**Jaqueline Perez**

— California State University, Fullerton

**Joshua Hollins**

— Long Beach City College

**Juliana Jacinto**

— California State University, Long Beach

**Karina Barboza**

— California State University, Chico

**Kayleen Mozo**

— Long Beach City College

**Leslie Perez**

— California State University, Long Beach

**Martha Valencia**

— California State University, Long Beach

**Monica Soto**

— Long Beach City College

**Nickolas Dang Castro**

— California State University, Long Beach

**Noelani Moku**

— California State University, Long Beach

**Odalís García Navarro**

— Long Beach City College

**Samantha Celio**

- Undecided

**Samantha Hernandez**

— Long Beach City College

**Samuel Hernandez**

— Long Beach City College

**Synaia Bolen Holt**

— Georgetown University

**Valeria Contreras**

— California State University, Long Beach

**Vanessa Flores**

— Long Beach City College



# Class of 2024

## College Graduates

- **Alanis Alvarez**
  - California State University, Long Beach
    - B.A. Psychology
- **Alexander Zermeno**
  - Chapman University
    - B.S. Mathematics
- **Alexis Rosas**
  - California State University, Long Beach
    - B.S. Kinesiology
- **Ayleen Huerta**
  - California State University, Long Beach
    - B.A. Chicano Studies
- **Cesar Magana**
  - California State University, Long Beach
    - B.S. Computer Science
- **Christopher Yopez**
  - California State University, Long Beach
    - B.S. Construction Engineering
- **Daphne Nina**
  - California State University, Long Beach
    - B.S. Health Science
- **Evelyn Tacuba**
  - California State University, Dominguez Hills
    - B.S. Biology
- **Mario Valencia**
  - California State University, Sacramento
    - B.A. English
- **Mike Tan**
  - California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
    - B.S. Aerospace Engineering
- **Miranda Velazquez**
  - California State University, Long Beach
    - B.S. Business Marketing
- **Quinn Nhean**
  - California State University, Long Beach
    - B.A. Psychology
- **Stalia Cerezo Perez**
  - University of California, Davis
    - B.A. Sociology
- **Stephen Salazar**
  - University of California, Berkeley
    - B.S. Mechanical Engineering and Material Science
- **Summer Campos**
  - University of California, Davis
    - B.A. Psychology
- **Yareli Losoya**
  - California State University, Long Beach
    - B.A. Healthcare Administration





# Scholarships

## **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.

## **Cameron Howard Chapman Award: \$2,000**

Generously donated by the Chapman Family, this award, formerly known as The Kathryn Chapman Community Service Award, honors Cameron Howard Chapman and his legacy of community service and profound impact on others. This scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior who has demonstrated exemplary dedication and commitment to making a positive difference in their community.

## **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. The Henry J. Meyer Endowment Scholarship is awarded to a student that found success through a helping hand despite the struggle.

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

The White Eagle Scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior selected based on their response to the following prompt: "Wow, four years of high school are almost behind me. College is the next stop, the next step, the next adventure." This fall, as you step onto the college campus, what feelings will drive you to grow and expand to a new level?

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.

# Scholarships

## **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: The greatest characteristic of a scientist or engineer is unrelenting curiosity: getting one answer and having that lead you to the next question. A beneficial condition for being a regular human being navigating life is knowing why we are here. Why did my creator put me here, in this time and place, this family, with these talents, interests, challenges, and imperfections? Life can flow much smoother if we know our personal mission and have a reason to get out of bed each morning. What have you done, or are you doing, to crack this personal mystery?

## **The 20th 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.

## **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 former staff. 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.

# Scholarships

## **Rick Nolan Athletic Scholarship: \$1,000**

The Rick Nolan Athletic Scholarship is a new award introduced this year. Established by a dedicated long-time board member, this scholarship underscores the vital importance of achieving both athletic and academic excellence. The Rick Nolan Athletic Scholarship recipient is selected from students who have demonstrated outstanding commitment and performance in their sports while maintaining high academic standards. This scholarship provides financial assistance to support an exceptional student in their pursuit of educational and athletic goals, fostering the development of well-rounded future leaders.

## **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 Casto 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 response in the form of a video, original poem, original song, or a traditional essay. The 2024 prompt asks the student to describe their educational goals and explain the inspiration for their choice of career.

## **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.

# Scholarships

## Isaiah Quevedo Scholarship for Excellence: \$500

The Isaiah Quevedo Scholarship for Excellence was created by Operation Jump Start's Chief Executive Officer, Irene Quevedo, in honor of her first son going off to college along with the class of 2024. The Isaiah Quevedo Scholarship for Excellence is designed to support a deserving senior student, selected from the graduating class without the need for an essay submission. This scholarship embodies persistence and inclusivity, reflecting the spirit and values that Isaiah Quevedo represents. Irene, Isaiah, and the entire Quevedo family are excited to support the future endeavors of a special and deserving student through this award.

## 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!*



# OJS Leadership

## Board of Directors

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

## Staff

Irene Quevedo — Chief Executive Officer  
Maria Alvarez — Program Director  
Rebecca Ridge — Community Outreach Manager  
Emily Garcia — Program Manager  
Kevin Melvin — Student Access Coordinator  
Anahi Hernandez — Program Coordinator

## Advisory Council

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

# A HUGE thank you to our 2024 Sponsors!

## Gold Sponsor

— Lisa & Frank —  
**CHAPMAN**

## Silver Sponsors



## Bronze Sponsor



## Venue Sponsor

Kathryn Chapman

## Table Sponsors

Jane Bemis  
Al and Barbara Regnier  
Joe Arismendez  
John Case  
Diann and Walt Zenda

Mark Christoffels  
Colleen and Lawrence Triesch  
Small Pond Legal  
Cheryl Burnett  
Ron Arias



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)

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



*Scan me!*

# Thank You!

## 2024 Scholars' Day Celebration

3515 Linden Avenue  
Long Beach, CA 90807  
562-988-2131  
[ojs@operationjumpstart.org](mailto:ojs@operationjumpstart.org)



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

