



2025 *Scholars' Day Celebration*

EVENT

PROGRAM

June 14, 2025

Long Beach Yacht Club

OPERATION JUMP START

ojs@operationjumpstart.org

operationjumpstart.org

562-988-2131



Welcome

Today is our favorite day of the year!

There's something electric about this moment. Today, we honor our brilliant scholars, their families, and the tireless mentors, staff, and supporters who help transform dreams into diplomas. **This year, we are not just reaching new heights; we are setting records.**

Operation Jump Start is experiencing a growth spurt! In 2025, we proudly served the highest number of students in our organization's history. Today, we celebrate 37 high school graduates and 13 college graduates, each a shining example of our mission and the future of our communities.

This year, OJS sends our first scholars to both Harvard and Yale University and other impressive colleges across the nation, such as UC Berkeley, Emory, USC, and Pomona College to name a few! Several of our scholars are attending with full rides, with 100% of their tuition covered through prestigious scholarships like The Gates Scholarship! This is an impressive bunch.

This incredible momentum didn't happen by chance. It's the result of passion, perseverance, and purpose. And it's just the beginning! Our Board of Directors is deep in strategic planning mode, charting an exciting course that ensures we grow not only in numbers but in impact.

To our Scholars: We are in awe of you. You've balanced AP classes, college apps, Zoom fatigue, family responsibilities... and you did it with grit and grace. **To our families and community partners: thank you for standing with us and believing in what's possible.** You remind us that success is a team sport.

Let today be a joyful reminder that dreams don't work unless we do and that when we do the work together, there's no limit to what we can achieve.

With immense pride and excitement for what's ahead,

Irene Quevedo
Chief Executive Officer
Operation Jump Start

OJS Leadership

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
Stalia Cerezo Perez — Community Outreach Assistant
Alex Solorzano — LRC Tutor

Board of Directors

Mark Christoffels — President
Rachel Davis — Vice President
Edoardo Savi — Secretary
Joe Arismendez — Treasurer
Jasmine Campbell
Carlos M. Diez Jr.
Justin Grayson

Rick Nolan — Advisory Board Chair

Advisory Council

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

Schedule of Events

9:30 AM — Continental Breakfast

10:00 AM — Program Begins

Class of 2025 Student Masters of Ceremonies

Alina Nhean & Carlos Guadamuz-Bielma

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Jane Close Conoley

7th President of California State University, Long Beach

OJS Mission Moment

Angelica Benitez — Class of 2025 Graduate

Spotlight Speaker

Dr. Patrick Day

*Vice-President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management,
California State University, Los Angeles*

Class of 2025 Highlight

See pages 6 - 7 for a full list of names and schools

Scholarship Awards

See page 8 for a full list of scholarships

Commitment to Youth Award

Closing Remarks

Irene Quevedo, Operation Jump Start CEO

Keynote Speaker

Jane Close Conoley serves as the seventh President of California State University, Long Beach. Prior to assuming this role, she was the interim Chancellor of the University of California Riverside. She has also held leadership positions at the University of California Santa Barbara, Texas A&M University, and the University of Nebraska Lincoln. Dr. Conoley is the author, co-author or editor of over one hundred thirty books, articles, and book chapters. Her latest book "Positive Psychology and Family Therapy" was co-authored with her husband, Dr. Collie W. Conoley.

She serves on numerous community service boards and has received research, teaching and service honors during her career. Both the American Psychological Association and the Association of Psychological Science honored Dr. Conoley with fellow status. Her research and development efforts in school safety, teacher quality, and student achievement have been supported by over \$50 million dollars in external federal, state, and private funds.

Dr. Conoley's primary professional focus is to create pathways of success for California students seeking higher education.



Dr. Jane Close Conoley
President,
California State University,
Long Beach

Spotlight Speaker

Patrick is an accomplished and dedicated student affairs leader with a wealth of experience in the field. He joined Cal State LA in January 2024 as the Interim Vice President for Student Life and is now currently serving as the Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management. Since arriving, he has fostered collaboration across the division to reimagine student programs, with the goal of driving engagement, retention, and success. Notably, he played a key role in the development of First Flight student orientation, a new and immersive two-day experience for new students and their families. With the new addition of enrollment management to the division, he is ensuring all areas of the division contribute to the student journey from the moment they apply to Cal State LA until they graduate.

Patrick's career in higher education spans over 30 years at public and private universities. He is deeply committed to students and a believer in the power of urban-serving higher education institutions.

Patrick holds a B.S. in Education and Social Policy from Northwestern University and a Master of Education in Higher Education Administration from Texas Tech University. He is currently completing his doctoral degree in Higher Education at the University of Pennsylvania.



Dr. Patrick Day
Vice-President of
Student Affairs and
Enrollment Management,
California State University,
Los Angeles

Graduating Seniors and Selected Colleges

Abigail Catalan

- CSU Long Beach

Alan Yopez Olivares

- CSU Fullerton

Alexa Hernandez Lujan

- UC Berkeley

Alexis Tacuba-Bustos

- U.S. Airforce

Alina Nhean

- Emory University

Alondra Garcia

- CSU Dominguez Hills

Alysha Marie Rivera Lina

- Santa Monica College

Alyssa Danielle Garcia

- Southern Utah University

Amy Herrera

- UC Santa Cruz

Andrea Perez

- UC Berkeley

Angelica Benitez

- Harvard University

Angelica Sanchez Arana

- CSU Long Beach

Ayden Chann

- CSU Long Beach

Belle Puckett

- UC, San Diego

Carlos Orlando Guadamuz-Bielma

- UC Berkeley

Dalia Ruiz

- Long Beach City College

Dayanara Mijangos

- Long Beach City College

Dre'Anna Floyd

- CSU Long Beach

Edith Gonzalez Martinez

- CSU Long Beach

Elizabeth Fair

- Long Beach City College

Enrique Dominguez Jr

- CSU Los Angeles

Frank Leyva-Martinez

- CSU Long Beach

Heriberto Velazquez

- Los Angeles Trade Technical College

Isaiah Miguel Arreola

- UC Santa Cruz

Jade Robinson

- CSU Long Beach

Jahkeida Isaac

- Long Beach City College

Jasmin Juarez

- Long Beach City College

Kevin Perez

- CSU Long Beach

Kimberly Aragon-Hernandez

- CSU Long Beach

Lizeth Herrera

- CSU Long Beach

Lumine Tun

- CSU Long Beach

Makhia Montgomery

- Sacramento State University

Maryam Moujahid-Rubio

- UC San Diego

Moises Garcia-Diaz

- Pomona College

Neema Martin

- CSU Long Beach

Samantha Ruiz

- University of Southern California

Olivia Okoye

- Yale University

Class of 2025 College Graduates

Denise Castaneda – CSU, Dominguez Hills (B.S. Biology)
Diana Rodriguez – CSU, Long Beach (B.S. Health Science)
Fabian Ochoa – CSU, Long Beach (B.S. Computer Science)
Francisco Jacinto – CSU, Long Beach (B.A. Sociology)
Genesis Mata – CSU, Long Beach (B.A. Psychology)
Genevieve Perez – New York University (B.A. Psychology)
Hillary Beitel – CSU, Long Beach (B.A. Political Science)
Ilene Thaopraseuth – CSU, Fullerton (B.S. Public Health)
Jasmine Hernandez – CSU, Long Beach (B.S. Criminal Justice)
Melissa Perez-Garay – UC, Davis (B.S. Human Development)
Najma Ali-EI – CSU, Dominguez Hills (B.A. Psychology)
Shaunice Thomas – CSU, Northridge (B.A. Psychology)
Wendy Rodriguez – University of California, Los Angeles (B.A. Political Science)

Invest in the Class of 2025 – and Beyond!

Join us in championing Operation Jump Start's mission to support low-income, first-generation students on their journey to college and career success. Your donation directly fuels the mentorship, guidance, and resources our scholars need to thrive. Every gift makes a difference – and we can't do it without you.

Donate Today
OJSLB.org



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Scholarships

The 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.

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 cut through a support system and did not happen overnight. The Henry J. Meyer Endowment Scholarship is awarded to a student who has found success through a helping hand despite the struggle.

The Mike Fry Memorial Scholarship: \$500

The Mike Fry Memorial Scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior who has 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.

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

The White Eagle Scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior who is 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? The sponsors of this scholarship hope to support the recipients on their journey towards knowledge, wisdom, and a greater vision that will lead them effectively in life.

Scholarships

The 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 unremitting 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 Cameron Howard Chapman Scholarship: \$2,000

Generously donated by the Chapman Family, this award, formerly known as The Kathryn Chapman Community Service Award, has been renamed to honor 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 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 a way that they could pay it forward and make a difference while traveling there.

Scholarships

The Rafael & Nelly Galindo Scholarship: **\$1,000 - 1st Place, \$500 - 2nd Place**

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 response in the form of a video, original poem, original song, or a traditional essay. The 2025 prompt asks the student to describe their educational goals and explain the inspiration for their choice of career.

The 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.

The Rick Nolan Scholarship: \$1,500

This award is generously sponsored by Rick Nolan, a longtime mentor and former board member of OJS. This scholarship recognizes a student who exemplifies outstanding participation and dedication to the organization. Selected by OJS staff from the 2025 scholarship applicant pool, the recipient of this award demonstrates both academic achievement and a strong commitment to OJS. This awardee is someone who has left a huge impact on the organization, similar to Rick during his time throughout his tenure at OJS.

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!



A Huge Thank You to our 2025 Sponsors!

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Kathryn and Howard Chapman

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THE GREEN PORT



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Purpose beyond profit.

Some things will always be.

We are honored to support Operation Jump Start.

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 Port of LONG BEACH
THE GREEN PORT

Partners in Education

The Port of Long Beach is pleased to join Operation Jump Start to honor graduating seniors at your Scholars Day Celebration. Congratulations to all on this milestone achievement!



EMPOWERING SCHOLARS, UPLIFTING COMMUNITIES.

The Masons of California are proud to partner with Operation Jump Start to celebrate and support tomorrow's leaders.



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Thank You!

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