Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund

40th Anniversary Scholarship Awards
Greater Seattle, Washington

2020
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This year, the Board of Directors decided to dedicate a portion of locally raised funds to another community in need. In partnership with Education with Purpose Foundation for Pacific Islanders, the NSRCF local scholarship awards committee awarded four deserving students from the Pacific Islander community.

Naomi Mulitauaopele Tagaleo'o
Andrea Iosua-Tinae       Matthew Vaeena
Lindsay Tuiasosopo       Ivo Vongsaveng

Special Thanks

Michael Byun            Rose Nguyen            Tiffany Tse-Grubbs
HtooShar Mon           Ay Saechao              Lillian Xie
LizAnne Ngo            Savannah Son
History of Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund

During World War II, many second-generation Japanese Americans (Nisei) were faced with having their college educations interrupted due to the mass evacuation of Japanese in America from the West Coast into concentration camps throughout the US. In response to this crisis, concerned educators and organizations such as the American Friends Service Committee (Quakers), YMCA, YWCA, and church and community groups, formed the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council. Its sole purpose was to help Nisei students leave the camps and complete their college educations. The War Department gave the Quakers the responsibility for administering the work of the Council and processing all college-bound students leaving the concentration camps. Although many Nisei were unaware of the work being done on their behalf at the time, the Council secured all the paperwork needed for every student. Monies required for tuition and scholarship were oftentimes raised by the Council through private sources. From 1942 to 1946, nearly 5,000 Nisei students were relocated to over 500 institutions of higher learning outside the restricted areas of the West Coast.

In 1980, a small group of these former students living in New England established the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund (NSRCF) in gratitude to the Council for its compassion and generosity and to “repay a kindness” to those who helped them. They chose Southeast Asian students for assistance because the plight of college-aged refugees from the Vietnam War arriving in the US reminded the Nisei of their similar experiences of being uprooted by war, interned in camps, and having their educations disrupted.

NSRCF, a permanent endowment, awarded its first grant in 1982 to the American Friends Service Committee in recognition of its major role in the wartime Council. Since then, NSRCF has provided scholarships to Southeast Asian refugee students and their descendants of the Vietnam War era. Each year scholarships are awarded within a focused US region with a significant Southeast Asian population selected by NSRCF’s Board of Directors. To date, the NSRCF has awarded just over 1,000 scholarships totaling $1.1 million in over 30 cities and regions.
Message from Greater Seattle Steering Committee Members

We were so excited NSRCF decided to return to the Greater Seattle area for its 40th anniversary. Previously, NSCRF was here in 1991 and 2011.

The local steering committee is a passionate and thoughtful group, comprised of community and education leaders who genuinely care about helping students get access to higher education. Many of us were first-generation college students and/or dedicated to helping underserved students seek better educational opportunities. We chose to serve on this steering committee because we see a huge opportunity to give back and pay it forward. We understand Southeast Asian students are faced with barriers and challenges around language barriers, gaps in mental health treatment, race-based bullying, and harassment, that prevent students from obtaining higher education. To improve the accessibility of the application process, we were intentional in creating an equitable application process and provided workshops and tools to help students fill out the application.

The culmination of our hard work led us to award $71,500 to 66 Southeast Asian students – the largest group in NSRCF’s history! We were so compelled by the students’ stories that we personally contributed and raised approximately $15,000 from the local community. We also dedicated $5,000 of the locally raised funds to provide scholarships to four Pacific Islander students. We are delighted with the selection of these highly qualified students who exemplify resilience, intelligence, and community.

Thank you to the families, teachers, and advisors who have worked tirelessly to support your students. Thank you, students, for sharing your stories, hardships, and goals with us. We were touched by how much you have overcome, how you rise above the noise to reach your goals, and the ways you give back to your families and communities. Always remember you have a lot of people who care about you and are rooting for you to succeed. No matter how hard the journey gets, lean into resilience, and continue to pursue your dreams. We are excited to see what you will accomplish next. We hope that one day you will give back and pay it forward to the next generation of students.

Due to the coronavirus and the need to socially distance, we made the difficult decision not to host this year's award ceremony. Instead, we will host a digital gallery on the NSRCF website with words of encouragement from the Board President Paul Watanabe, 2011 Award recipient Johnson Nguyen, and the Greater Seattle Steering Committee.
Black Lives Matter

The Seattle local committee would like to take a moment to reflect on the racial injustices that are happening in our nation amidst this pandemic. We as Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders stand in solidarity with the Black Community and condemn the violence they face.

These events do not overshadow your accomplishments and the light within you. Let your light lead with love and together we can build stronger communities.

Make no mistake that your journey brought you to intersect with us today, continue to share your voices and your stories. We believe in each of you. Like the Japanese American Nisei, who rose out of wartime acts of racial discrimination to create this NSRCF Scholarship, we believe that each of you exemplifies the foundations of this scholarship.

Congratulations to each of you!

In solidarity,
The NSRCF Greater Seattle Steering Committee
American Friends Service Committee Scholarship established by the NSRCF Board of Directors

In 1982, the newly formed NSRCF presented its first gift, a donation to the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). This award recognized the leading role played by the AFSC in the formation and work of the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council, the group that made it possible for more than 4,500 Nisei students to leave our country’s wartime internment prison camps for college and universities throughout the United States.

In 2012, on the 30th anniversary of the Fund’s first gift, the Board of the NSRCF gratefully established the American Friends Service Committee Named Scholarship. The Board intends the fund to stand as a permanent tribute to AFSC’s visionary leadership. The AFSC overcame the challenges of wartime hatred, low funding and staffing, and the endless demands of federal, state and college and university regulations, to offer Nisei students unwavering encouragement and concrete assistance. Their aid opened the way for the Nisei and their families to leave the edges of our society, where they had been relegated, and enter into the mainstream of American life.

Perseus Nguyen
Evergreen High School, Seattle (Vietnamese)

Perseus says, “I have always had the goal to prove others wrong about myself as well as leave behind a legacy.” Their community work included cleaning up the sides of roads, supporting the LGBTQ+ community, and commissioning art for a 5K run/walk. Perseus was the president of an LGBTQ club at Evergreen, a member of the Outdoors club, and participated in Track and Field. Their interests revolve around animals, art, nature, music, theater/acting, politics, law, and government. Perseus plans to attend Central Washington University “to hopefully pursue a career that makes me happy.”
Hiroko Fujita and Paul Fukami Scholarship
established by Joyce Fukami

Hiroko Fujita and Paul Fukami were of college-age when they were interned during World War II. Hiroko, born in Hanford, California, was the fourth of eight children of Yoshiro and Toku Fujita. In 1942 Hiroko and her family boarded a train for the Jerome, Arkansas, internment camp where she remained until July 1943. Hiroko and her sister, Yasuko, left camp for Detroit to work at a dairy, while their sister, Aki, moved to Philadelphia to attend nursing school. Hiroko and Yasuko moved to Philadelphia to be near Aki and the rest of the family joined them in the summer of 1945. Paul Fukami was born in San Francisco, California, the eldest of four children of Teizo and Yojuku Fukami. Paul attended Lowell High School before he and his family were interned at Tanforan Assembly Center and then removed to Topaz, Utah. He served in the US Army from 1949 to 1950.

When the war was over, Hiroko moved to San Francisco and Paul and his family returned there too. The two met on a tennis court and were married in 1952 and moved to Pacifica, California, in 1957. Paul became part owner of Linda Mar Hardware and Hiroko raised three daughters. Hiroko eventually returned to work as an executive administrative assistant at the Western Region Headquarters of the US Postal Service. Paul and Hiroko continued to enjoy playing tennis together as well as golf and bowling. They loved to entertain family and friends and lived in Pacifica until Paul passed away in 1986. Hiroko passed away in 1993.

Although Hiroko and Paul did not benefit directly from the wartime National Japanese American Student Relocation Council, they believed deeply in the importance of a college education. It was their highest priority and expectation that their three daughters would graduate from college. Their dream was proudly fulfilled.

Kovit Virivong
The Northwest School, Seattle (Lao)

Persistence, curiosity and passion are important to Kovit. He is more than just a hard working student at the top of his class. He brought Lao representation to the International Student Union, volunteered with the API Interest Group, worked as a student advisor and SSAT Prep teacher with Rainier Scholars, and proudly learned how to make art with wax. He tutors youth at a local library, enjoys taking photos, and his favorite activity is working on his car. He says, “I want to inspire Lao youth and show that they can surpass their limits.” Kovit will be attending Pomona College and plans to study neuroscience.
Michihiko and Bernice Hayashida Scholarship
established by NSRCF board of directors

Michihiko (“Mich”) Hayashida was born in Berkeley, California, one of 12 children. His family was interned first at Tanforan, then at Topaz (Utah). He was able to leave the internment camp in 1943 with the help of the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council to attend Boston University. He counts among several important influences in his life his oldest brother Tetsuo; a classmate at Berkeley High School; and Eleanor Sekerak, a teacher at Topaz. Mich followed in his brother’s footsteps as a premed student, but after one year, he was called to military service. He returned in 1946, graduated, and then attended Boston University Medical School becoming a board-certified ophthalmologist. His practice eventually brought him to Hawaii. Mich met his wife, Bernice, who is from Hawaii, while she was attending the Boston College School of Social Work. Bernice has actively volunteered in their five children’s classrooms and PTA; Kaiser Hospital; the Waikiki Aquarium; League of Women Voters Education Committee; as a docent at the Bishop Museum to visitors from Japan; and has been involved in several community and neighborhood improvement and preservation projects. Mich says, “Despite all the problems and uncertainty brought on by our mass forced removal from the Pacific Coast, there were those not directly affected, who despite the disapproval or indifference of the majority, went out of their way to help us. In our time of need, they came forward and enabled so many of us to continue our education. In doing so, they instilled in us a sense of responsibility to help others in need. The forced displacement of the Southeast Asians provided the opportunity to be actively involved in helping students to further their education.”

Tuyet-Nhi Vo
Rainier Beach High School, Seattle (Vietnamese)

Tuyet-Nhi was very involved in school activities and her community. She was an officer on the Associated Student Body and Key Club, a youth leader and intern for the Asian Pacific Islander Community Advocating Together for Healthy Communities (APICAT), and a regular volunteer for the nonprofit, Got Green. During Tuyet-Nhi’s senior year, she carried a full collegiate load while working two part-time jobs. At APICAT she informed community members on topics such as nicotine and marijuana. Tuyet-Nhi will be attending Western Washington University to study community health.
Nobu (Kumekawa) and Yosh Hibino Scholarship
established by Michihiko and Bernice Hayashida, family and friends

Nobu Kumekawa Hibino (1921–1998) was the heart and soul of the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund. In 1942, Nobu was one semester away from graduating from UC Berkeley when her family was interned at Topaz, Utah. With the help of the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council, she left Topaz in 1943 to complete her last semester at Boston University. Yosh Hibino (1919-2011) was able to leave Topaz to earn his master's degree from the University of Texas in Austin. He and Nobu married in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and moved to Portland, Connecticut in 1951 where they raised their three children. In 1980, along with the Nodas and Takayanagis, they established the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund to “extend a helping hand” in tribute to those who had done the same for them during those dark days of WWII. Besides being the driving force of the NSRCF for 18 years, Nobu dedicated her life to her family, community service, and involvement in the civil rights movement, housing, politics, education, and environmental issues. She started the first Head Start program in the state of Connecticut and followed that accomplishment by becoming the first minority and first woman to serve on the board of a bank in that state. Yosh was an equal partner in their nearly 55 years of marriage. In their early years in Portland, he was active in church youth groups and started the “midget” and “pony” football programs in 1956, making sure minority and underprivileged players were also included. He coached the pony team to the state championship in 1959. While working full-time with his business, Yosh put himself through Connecticut’s School of Law night program and graduated with his JD in 1971. He volunteered many years with Middletown Legal Aid Services, Catholic Charities in Hartford, and the Portland Housing Authority. In his later years, he volunteered with the Literacy Volunteers of Greater Middletown and delivered Meals on Wheels. In 2007 Yosh was proudly inducted into the Portland Sports Hall of Fame for his achievements with the town’s football program. Yosh and Nobu also found time to travel taking 26 overseas trips in nearly as many years. As active as they were in so many endeavors, the NSRCF remained one of their proudest accomplishments.

Flora Saelor
Rainier Beach High School, Seattle (Mien, Thai)

Flora values hard work and kindness, as evidenced by her volunteer work with the Iu-Mien Community Center and Asian Counseling Referral Services. She continuously pushed herself as an International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme student. Throughout high school she also played an important role at home, cooking, cleaning, and working at a part-time job to help pay bills. Flora will be attending Pacific Lutheran University, planning to major in Psychology. Flora says that by becoming a psychologist, she hopes to improve herself while helping others do the same.
Shim and Chiyo Hiraoka Scholarship
established by Ann Graybill Cook, Michael Hoshiko, family, and friends

Were it not for working together in the legal office of the Gila River War Relocation Center in Arizona, the chances of Yoshimi Roger “Shim” Hiraoka and Lily Chiyoko Tsukahara ever crossing paths would have been highly unlikely. It was there that Shim, son of immigrant farmers of Del Rey, California, graduate of UC Berkeley and San Francisco Law School, and a California State Bar certified attorney met Santa Barbara-born Chiyo, daughter of immigrant produce house owners, who had worked her way through school honing her secretarial skills.

That encounter led to their internment camp wedding in 1943. Shim soon after enlisted with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and participated in the famed “Rescue of the Lost Battalion” and the liberation of Bruyeres in France. Chiyo at just age 20 led seven family members out of Gila to the East Coast where she found work in Philadelphia as a nanny/housekeeper. During the day, Chiyo used her superb stenographic/secretarial skills at the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council, working for Field Director Tom Bodine.

At WWII’s end, Shim and Chiyo made their way back to Fresno, California. They still faced prejudice because of their Japanese ancestry but eventually found acceptance, raised three daughters, and assimilated. Shim established a sole law practice, became a Rotarian, Mason, VFW leader, and both were members of the Japanese Congregational Church. With children finally of age, Chiyo put those same superb skills to work at Fresno State College.

In 2000, the family learned that an NSRCF Tribute Fund had been established for them by life-long friend Ann Graybill Cook and Michael Hoshiko. Through the generosity and memorial gifts of family and friends, their fund reached the Named Scholarship level. We lost Shim in 2004, and Chiyo in 2013. Condensing their 61 years together is not easy. They represent to their family, now into its “Gosei” 5th generation, the strength, endurance, resiliency, and resolve of our Nisei forebears. They are missed and remembered with deep love and gratitude. Now with a Named Scholarship their story, this legacy, is cemented in perpetuity.

Leah Tran
Lincoln High School, Tacoma (Vietnamese, Teochew - Chinese)

Leah has devoted most of her free time giving back to her community. During high school she was an active member of Key Club, the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation - Youth Philanthropy Board, Pierce County Juvenile Detention Center - Diversion Program, and the Mayor’s Youth Commission. Leah and a group of friends established a Southeast Asian Student Association where they embrace their cultures through promoting unity and pride. Leah will be attending the University of Washington Seattle to study Education and American Ethnic Studies and hopes to become an educator and youth mentor.
Tama (Yoshimura) and Jiro Ishihara Scholarship
established by Jiro Ishihara, the NSRC Fund board of directors, family and friends

Tama Yoshimura Ishihara (1926–2005) of Concord, Massachusetts, joined the NSRC Fund board of directors in 1989 because she was a firm believer in the value of education as a necessary tool for success in America, especially for recent immigrant children. For 13 years she gave her time freely to help advance this notion. As board member Yutaka Kobayashi said, “I often wondered how it is that such a petite woman could muster up so much energy and spirit! It was always a pleasure to work with Tama because you knew that the job would get done and done well. It is my belief that Tama’s early experience helped shape her outlook on life. She was uprooted from her home by her own government at age 16 during WWII, her family forced to live in a horse stall at the Tanforan, California, race track, and then in barracks behind barbed wire fences in Topaz, Utah. She graduated from Topaz High School in 1943 and left the concentration camp to attend, and graduate with a degree in bacteriology, from Carroll College in Waukesha, Wisconsin.”

Tama’s college education was made possible because of the work of the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council.

Jiro “Jiggs” Ishihara (1925-2012) grew up in Los Angeles and was evacuated with his family first to the Santa Anita race track and then to Gila River, Arizona, an experience he described as “heat, dust and high school for me.” Jiggs and his parents joined his two sisters in Chicago and he received his master’s degree from Northwestern University. Jiggs and Tama settled in Concord, Massachusetts where they raised their three children. Jiggs was always by Tama’s side when it came to her volunteer work and commitment to the NSRCF. Although he was not an NSRCF board member, he came to every meeting and was an active participant. Jiggs was the moving force behind the idea of creating the NSRCF Named Fund special giving category. He also helped organize mounds of data for two “Phonathon” fundraisers. Tama and Jiggs embodied the spirit of ongaeshi – repaying a kindness received.

Lisa Ha
Kent-Meridian High School, Kent (Vietnamese)

Lisa was involved in DECA, Interact Club, Japanese Club, and Girls Who Code Club. Her community work included volunteering at the local library, co-leading a service project that positively impacted nearby elementary schools, and coding a scholarship resource website to help her peers. Lisa will be attending Pacific Lutheran University where she plans to pursue a BS degree in Computer Science and become a software engineer. She hopes her passion will empower students from underrepresented and under-served communities to explore STEM, college access, and career opportunities.
Yutaka and Maureen Kobayashi Scholarship  
established by Maureen Kobayashi

Yutaka was born and raised in San Francisco. In 1942 he and his family were sent to the Topaz, Utah concentration camp. He was able to leave Topaz in January 1943 through the aid of the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council to attend college, eventually earning a Ph.D. in biochemistry. He is an expert in liquid scintillation counting and retired from DuPont in 1995. Yutaka is an avid tennis player. In 2014 at the young age of 90, he achieved a longtime goal when the USTA ranked him the #1 U.S. tennis player in singles and doubles in that age group. Yutaka joined the board of the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund (NSRCF) in 1992 and served as its president from 1998 to 2002. He undertook a major revision of the by-laws; he and Maureen organized the Fund's 20th-anniversary celebration; he serves as the national liaison to the local scholarship awards committees, developed a “how-to” manual for them; and produced a DVD about the NSRCF. Yutaka has also written a book, “A Nisei's American Odyssey” which chronicles his life, memories, observations, and lessons learned about the internment experience. He continues to speak about this at churches, schools, and various social groups. During her professional life, Maureen headed the lab at New England Nuclear which synthesized radioactive nucleosides needed by research biochemists world-wide. When she hit the “glass ceiling,” she decided to attend night school, earned her MBA, and then switched to the finance department of the company. Maureen has dedicated much of her time, considerable energy, and many skills to community service. She has been a president of the local American Cancer Society; hospice volunteer; science mentor at elementary and high schools; financial advisor to seniors; and English language speaking aide. Maureen is also a world traveler, hiker, biker, tennis player, and swimmer. As a committed supporter of the NSRCF, and member of its Investment Committee, she was instrumental in lobbying the board to change to a very successful, yet responsible, investment strategy. Maureen wanted to establish this Scholarship Fund in tribute for all Yutaka has done for the NSRCF, but true to form, he insisted “we do it together.”

Linda Phan  
Garfield High School, Seattle (Vietnamese)

Linda aims to become a politician or to work within a legislative body in a supporting role. In high school, she was involved with Student Government, Vietnamese Student Distributive Education Clubs of America, National Honor Society, Gymnastics, Track & Field, and Swim & Dive. She also volunteered with local Seattle nonprofits including Post 84, the Service Board, Global Visionaries, and Girl Up Puget Sound. She will be attending Pomona College to study politics.
Ryozo Glenn Kumekawa Scholarship
established by Joanne K. Kumekawa, friends, and family

Ryozo Glenn Kumekawa played a critical role in the growth and development of the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund (NSRCF) for 21 years – as an involved supporter, a board member, and as president of the board. In 1992, Glenn was well-qualified to chair the Southern New England Awards Committee, having been responsible for designing the strategic use of federal funds for Rhode Island’s response to the arrival of 12,000 Southeast Asian so-called “Boat People” needing relocation and resettlement assistance. In 1998, he joined the NSRCF board of directors, assuming the presidency in 2002. He focused his participation on the need to expand the funding base; seeking opportunities for corporate outreach; expanding the size and composition of the board; and raising discussion about the process by which scholarships are awarded. During his presidency, the Fund’s mission statement was further clarified, the board was restructured; levels of scholarship giving were expanded; grants were sought and received; new informational materials were developed; and the board of directors transitioned to a younger, more diverse group.

With a deep and abiding commitment to his beloved Rhode Island, Glenn was the Director of Planning of Warwick; Executive Assistant to the Governor for Policy and Program; and Executive Director of the Coalition of Northeast Governors (CONEG) Policy Research Center. He served on the Design Review Committee of the Capital Center Commission, to develop and preserve downtown Providence. He is a Professor Emeritus of the Intergovernmental Policy Analysis Program of the University of Rhode Island and served as Chair of the Graduate Program of Community Planning and Area Department.

Glenn made the NSRCF board’s work a joy and a privilege. He steadfastly focused on the importance of the Fund’s efforts to commemorate the WWII evacuation and internment, and the generosity and goodness of people who reached across race differences and wartime hatred to offer a helping hand to young Japanese Americans. As one of those young Japanese Americans helped by the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council, he left the Topaz, Utah internment camp for college in Maine. Decades later he continues to inspire the board’s efforts to reach out in that same spirit of “ongaeshi” – repaying a kindness.

Pan San
Ferris High School, Spokane (Burmese, Karen, Thai)

Pan San’s goal is to help people with medical treatment and hopefully save their lives. Her family always encouraged and supported her. Taking inspiration from her grandmother who has been blind since her mother was a little girl, Pan San is determined to help her by helping others. She works in the community as an interpreter and helps people with their paperwork if they have difficulty understanding. She is interested in the medical field and planning to attend Spokane Community College.
Colonel Joseph Y. Kurata Scholarship
established by Col. Joseph Y. Kurata

Colonel Joseph Y. Kurata was born in Lodi, California. He and his family were interned at Rohwer, Arkansas in 1942. When Joe left Rohwer he went to work in Cleveland, Ohio, and was drafted into the Army in September 1944. He was awaiting shipment to Europe when Germany surrendered so he was sent instead to Camp Ritchie in Maryland with the first group of Nisei soldiers to receive counterintelligence (CIC) training for eventual duty in the Pacific. For Joe, this marked the beginning of a lifelong career in the Army.

Upon finishing CIC training, he and about 85 fellow Nisei soldiers shipped out to Japan for duty with the Occupation. Joe’s service also took him to Korea. Back stateside he attended the Army Intelligence School, the Army Command and General Staff School, and the Defense Intelligence School. Through the GI Bill, he was able to achieve his aspiration of obtaining a college education from the University of Maryland’s overseas extension and night classes. In Vietnam, he served as CIC staff officer with Headquarters, Military Assistance Command.

After serving 32 years in the military, during which he rose from private to colonel, he retired in 1976 at the Presidio, San Francisco. Joe met and married his late wife Shirley in Yokohama in 1946. He has three children and three grandchildren. He resides in San Francisco and was chapter president of the Army Counterintelligence Corps Veterans; a member of MIS NORCAL; a member of the Board of Directors of the Fort Point & Presidio Historical Association; and participated in discussions with the National Park Service hoping to preserve the Crissy Field hangar where the first MIS Language School class met in 1941. Joe also enjoyed being a fishing mentor to visiting grandchildren.

The 2015 Named Scholarship recipients’ stories reminded Joe of his own experiences as a child of immigrant parents. His parents taught their children to ignore the prevailing prejudice and discrimination against Asians and strive to study hard and excel academically. Joe said, “After reading the scholarship recipients’ educational and career goals, I was inspired to support your worthy program.”

Thanh-Thanh Nguyen
Franklin High School, Seattle (Vietnamese)

If Thanh-Thanh can say one thing about herself, it is that she perseveres. She will be the first to admit that she can sometimes be “disconnected” from her Vietnamese community. Even so, she would like to travel to Vietnam for the first time and to go with her mother. She perseveres - learning Vietnamese and being a library TA. Taking baby steps never intimidated her. Thanh-Thanh’s dream is to become a nurse. She will be attending Seattle Central College.
Audrey Logan Scholarship
established by Kesaya Noda

Our life is love, and peace, and tenderness ... and helping one another up with a tender hand.
– Isaac Pennington, 1667

Audrey Armour Logan described these words as an early Quaker as among her favorites. Born in Brooklyn, New York in 1916, she studied at Friends Academy in Locust Valley, Long Island, where she first encountered and embraced the Quaker faith that was to guide her throughout her life. After her graduation from Smith College, Audrey trained as a teacher at the Bank Street College of Education in New York City. She had a calling as an educator – a need to teach, a joy in it, and a true gift for reaching and helping her students. Audrey “taught,” whether she was standing before a class of fourth-graders, guiding students as their elementary school librarian, establishing a teacher training institute, mentoring its students, or helping individual children and adults learn to read.

Audrey is also remembered as a Quaker. She marched, organized, wrote letters, petitioned, protested, and voted, never hesitating to raise her voice in fierce protest if she felt anyone had been subject to unfairness. She fiercely championed those whom she felt had been wronged and enthusiastically supported the NSRCF until her death. When she died in 2008, she left behind three daughters; two stepdaughters; an all but formally adopted sixth “daughter;” scores of grateful former students; and the love between her and NSRCF founders Lafayette and Mayme Noda that continues to weave together her family and theirs to this day.

Lily Duong
Highline High School, Des Moines (Vietnamese)

Lily was actively involved in her school community as a member of Tutor Team, Link Crew, Key Club, National Honors Society, and as president of the Marine Biology Club. Through her experiences as a Vietnamese student, she plans to become a teacher. She feels that equal access for all students is important and that she can help encourage them to pursue higher education. Lily will be attending Western Washington University as a Future Woodring Scholar majoring in Elementary Education.
Alice Abe Matsumoto Scholarship  
established by Friends of Alice Abe Matsumoto

Alice Abe Matsumoto (1920–1997) was the fourth of the six children of Toyoji and Yuka Abe of San Francisco. Alice was a student at the University of California at Berkeley when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. Alice’s father, a leader in the Japanese American community of San Francisco and publisher of a Japanese language newspaper, was classified by the U.S. government as a dangerous enemy alien, and immediately arrested and placed in detention camps in Montana and Texas for the duration of the war. Alice, her mother, three sisters, and a brother were interned in the Tanforan Assembly Center and then the Topaz Relocation Center in Utah. At the time her eldest brother was serving with the U.S. Army. With the help of the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council, Alice left Topaz to attend Temple University in Philadelphia and received her degree in Nutrition and Dietetics.

When her family moved to Minnesota in 1962 she became the head therapeutic dietitian at St. Joseph’s Hospital in St. Paul. She was an active member of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Dietetic Association and served on various committees to educate the public by giving lectures and demonstrations to promote optimal nutrition, health, and well-being. She was active in her church, the St. Paul-Nagasaki Sister City organization, and the Como Park Japanese Garden board. She was ever mindful of the valuable assistance she received in 1943 from the Student Relocation Council to complete her education and the effect it had on her life. Alice’s close friend, Nobu Kumekawa Hibino said, “Alice’s many admiring friends remembered her unselfish concern and the love for others. She was quick to compliment people but reluctant to accept credit for all she did.” Alice believed in the goals of the NSRCF and was one of its earliest supporters.

Michelle Saechao  
Lindbergh High School, Renton (Khmer, Mien)

In high school Michelle maintained a 3.9 GPA, and was involved in Key Club, Eagle Crew, HOSA Club, National Honor Society, and Lindbergh Orchestra. She received the Renton Rotary Youth of the Month award for December 2019, Outstanding Junior Award, Student of the Month Department Awards, and Soundview Region Music Educators Certificates of Awards for piano and violin. She also found time to volunteer at Renton Park Elementary School and the Department of Social and Health Services. Michelle will be attending Highline College and plans to obtain her Bachelor of Science in Nursing.
Hisaye Hamaoka Mochizuki Scholarship  
established by Akio Mochizuki

Hisaye Hamaoka was born in 1925 in Del Rey, California, the second of three daughters of Kyuhei and Kima Hamaoka, originally of Kumamoto, Japan. The family moved to Delano, California where the sisters attended segregated schools. In 1942, Hisaye was a student at Delano High School. Hisaye, her mother, and sisters were evacuated to Merced Assembly Center and Amache (Granada) Relocation Center in Colorado. She graduated from high school in Amache. Hisaye applied to several universities from camp. She was not accepted to any of the universities to which she applied, but in 1944, with the help of the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council, she traveled to Minneapolis to see if the University of Minnesota would accept her for the Fall quarter. She matriculated in 1944 and graduated in 1948 with a degree in dietetics.

From 1948 to 1950, Hisaye was a dietetic intern at Highland Hospital. In 1950, she accepted a job as a dietitian for the University of California, San Francisco's Metabolic Unit where she designed special diets for research protocols and oversaw the research kitchen for 33 years. She married Akio Mochizuki in 1951. Tara, their only child was born a year later. Hisaye was always grateful for the help she received from the American Friends Service Committee, “the Quakers” as she called it, without whose help she may never have attended university.

Kristy Nhan  
Kentridge High School, Kent (Vietnamese, Chinese)

Kristy is passionate about serving the community and giving back, especially with her passion for STEM. In high school Kristy held leadership positions as the founder and president of STEM Careers Club and the co-president of the National Honor Society. She has always felt a connection to Seattle's immigrant and refugee communities because of her family's roots and wants to empower people in accessing and learning to use technology. She hopes to combine computer science and artificial intelligence to increase technology accessibility while attending the University of Washington Seattle's Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science & Engineering.
Koh, Mitsu and Dr. Kotaro Murai Scholarship
established by the Murai Family

Koh and Mitsu Murai were the Issei parents of Dr. Kotaro Murai. When the war came, they were living in San Francisco and Kotaro was attending Berkeley. Because Koh was a newspaper owner and publisher, he was classified as a dangerous enemy alien and sent to several detention centers — from Montana to Santa Fe to Louisiana — before ending up at the Rohwer, AK internment camp. Kotaro and his mother were sent to Tanforan, but as one of the early students helped by the Student Relocation Council, he was released to continue his education at the University of Nebraska. He obtained his undergraduate and graduate degrees there. Kotaro was able to arrange for a job for his mother at the Franciscan Sisters Hospital in Lincoln, Nebraska.

When Koh left Rohwer at war’s end, they settled in Denver, and Mitsu continued working for the Franciscan Sisters there until she retired. Kotaro went on to receive his Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from the University of Minnesota and began working at Pfizer in 1949. He spent his career there and retired in 1988 as Senior Research Investigator in the Analytical Chemistry Department. He was part of the research group at Pfizer that developed the Terramycin and Tetracycline antibiotics, as well as several of the psychotropic drugs. In all their letters from camp — Kotaro’s parents kept repeating the theme of “study hard while you are young and always behave like a gentleman.”

Uyen Dao
Lincoln High School, Tacoma (Vietnamese)

“Life is a race with oneself” is Uyen’s motto. Uyen used her leadership skills to establish the first student-led health club in her school district, and was a member of Key Club, Uncommon, Upward Bound, College Success Achiever, and Outdoor Adventure Club. She chose to give back to the community by volunteering at the Tacoma General Hospital, the Vietnamese Language School, the Youth Faith Formation Program, the youth choir, and the youth dance group. Uyen will be attending the University of Washington and planning to pursue a career as a traveling doctor advocating for affordable and easier access to healthcare in the developing countries.
Dr. Kenji Murase Scholarship Fund  
established by friends and family of Kenji Murase

Dr. Kenji Murase (1920-2009) was the son of immigrant farmers in the California Central Valley. After graduating at the top of his class at Reedley High School, he attended UCLA, then UC Berkeley. In 1942 his education was interrupted by the forced wartime incarceration of Japanese Americans. Kenji and his family were sent to Poston Camp in Arizona. In camp, he was City Editor for the camp newspaper and represented Camp III on the Poston Student Relocation Council. He was admitted to Wayne State University but was prohibited from enrolling when the Detroit City Council adopted a resolution stating that Japanese American students were not welcome, including Kenji Murase by name. With the help of the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council, Kenji finally left Poston for Haverford College and transferred to Temple University where he completed his bachelor’s degree. He received his social workmasters and doctoral degrees at Columbia University. In 1957 he was the first American Fulbright Scholar to Japan. In 1967 he was recruited for the new Graduate School of Social Work & Social Research at San Francisco State University where he taught for 23 years. In San Francisco he wrote the United Way proposal to fund United Japanese Community Services, the Japanese Community Youth Council, and Kimochi, Inc., a senior services program. He also conducted community needs assessments for planning the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California and the Kokoro Assisted Living Facility. For 22 years Kenji played a critical role on the board of directors of the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund. Kenji was married to Seiko Murase, also a social worker, for more than 40 years. Their three children, Emily, Miriam, and Geoffrey, all residents of the San Francisco Bay Area, are very pleased to support a scholarship in the name of their late father.

Julina Lang  
West Seattle High School, Seattle (Khmer)

Julina was a positive role model, mentor, and active leader in Link Crew. She also was inspired to learn about other communities outside of her school. She became an intern at Hiawatha Community Center and Delridge Community Center, worked at the Boys and Girls Club, and was a lunch aide at White Center Community Center. She spends some of her weekends helping the Khmer community by participating at the Khemarak Pothiram Temple. “Through these experiences, I learned that advocating for others became my newfound passion, something I will direct my future towards.” Julina will be attending the University of Washington to pursue a major in Public Health.
**Kaizo and Shizue Naka Scholarship Fund**
established in memory by their children, Fumio Robert and Patricia Neilon Naka

My father, Kaizo Naka, was the firstborn son (born in 1884) of the landed gentry in Yasutake Mura on Kyushu. He emigrated from Japan to the United States with the help of George Shima (Ushijima), “the potato king,” possibly to help the farm in Stockton, CA with its finances. He entered Stanford University but found the periodic trips to Stockton taking up too much time so he transferred to the University of California at Berkeley where he received his BA and MA in economics. After working in Stockton on the farm and in New York City for the Mitsui Trading Company he returned to Japan to marry Shizue Kamegawa.

Shizue Kamegawa (born in 1895) was the oldest daughter of a family of philosophers. My mother spent her childhood, as many girls of wealthy families did during that period, learning the arts, some of her work I still have today. Upon graduation she taught mathematics at a girls school. After marriage and a short time on the farm in Yasutake, my parents moved to San Francisco where my father began working for the transpacific freight and passenger steamship company Toyo Kisen Kaisha. In 1926, when I was 2 1/2 years old, the family moved to Los Angeles where my father opened the new office of TKK as its manager. In May 1942 we were sent to the Manzanar internment camp in southern California.

I wanted to create this scholarship to honor my Issei parents and the emphasis they always placed on education and “giving back.” I remember my mother telling me that you can’t just take from society you have to give something back. But what she really said was, “You have to give back twice as much because someone won’t give anything.”

**Samirah Apdalhaliehm**
Renton High School, Renton (Cham)

Samirah actively implemented new programs for the youth in her community while obtaining outstanding grades in school. She understands the importance of giving back to her community while also dedicating time to her studies. She constantly seeks out new opportunities available to underrepresented minorities and participated in over five internships during high school. She will be attending the University of Washington to pursue her interest in public health and biology.
Lafayette and Mayme Noda Scholarship
established by Walter N. Frank

[A tribute by David and Kesaya E. Noda]

Our parents, Lafayette and Mayme Noda (1919-2006), were among the small group that originally founded NSRCF. Born in California, in an intentional agricultural settlement of Japanese immigrants known as the Yamato Colony, they were imprisoned in Amache, Colorado and eventually settled in rural New Hampshire. Committed Quakers for more than 50 years, our parents are two people who – above all else – seek to live their faith, in matters large and small. They laugh, work, and have fun, but they never stop trying to make this world a better place. As a biochemist at Dartmouth Medical School, Lafayette successfully isolated and studied the enzymes that are now used to diagnose heart attacks and other diseases. Mayme was a gifted educator and musician who taught in several local schools and performed with a medieval consort. Longtime political activists, they “retired” but Lafayette continues to work hard on the pick-your-own blueberry and Christmas tree farm. As founders of NSRCF, they, like so many who are involved, wanted to help others – as they were once helped. This is a responsibility they never questioned. It was always their deep pleasure.

Ravipon Khampradith
Federal Way High School, Federal Way (Lao)

Ravipon is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, and was active in the Key Club, and was on the varsity track and field team. He is also very involved in the Lao community in Washington, teaching music and dance to Lao youth every week and volunteering at community events, such as the Miss Lao Washington Pageant. He also started his own photography business as a way to earn work experience and to express himself creatively. Ravipon will be attending the Ira A. Fulton School of Engineering at Arizona State University.
**Gladys Ishida Stone Scholarship**  
*established by Gladys Ishida Stone*

[Gladys Ishida Stone, a longtime NSRCF supporter, was helped by the Student Relocation Council to attend Washington University in St. Louis. The following is an excerpt from a tribute given in her memory by Mead Stone, 2/17/95]

“Gladys came into my life 33 years ago in marriage to my father, Greg Stone. To me, in 1962, Gladys was a beautiful woman of depth and understanding; the chairperson of the department of History and the Social Sciences at the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point. She possessed a political strength that eventually succeeded through endurance and the absolute correctness of her sense of both social and personal injustice and responsibility – for others. She brought fun into our home, softened our humor and lived with a variety of nicknames running from Grady to Griddles and back again – as if we were endlessly trying to find a label, word, name, or symbol to express the woman she was. Dr. Gladys Stone, Professor Emeritus of Sociology: we came home to Gladys. She was a woman who endured many personal and social hardships without complaint, with dignity, discipline and love.”

**Sofia Nguyen**  
*Franklin High School, Seattle (Vietnamese)*

Living in a marginalized community and raised by immigrant parents, Sofia is passionate about social justice and science. She painted murals around her community to express her activism and has taken part in the Genome Sciences Internship at the University of Washington and the Political Science Academy at her school. Combining both of her interests, Sofia advocated for equitable science curriculums throughout the Seattle public schools district as part of the Science Adoption Committee. Sofia will be attending the University of Washington studying pre-health sciences and ethnic studies with a goal to build diversity in the medical field.
David Mitsuo Takagi Scholarship  
established by NSRCF Board of Directors, Family, and Friends

David, the second of five children, was born in Sacramento, CA in 1938 to Sachiye and Taichi Takagi. At the time of Pearl Harbor, David was just three years old when his family was interned at the Tule Lake (CA) Segregation Center. The Takagis’ neighbors cared for their house during their internment, ensuring the family had a home to return to upon their release from Tule Lake.

David graduated from C.K. McClatchy High School in Sacramento and served in the U.S. Air Force before graduating from Sacramento State College in 1967 with a degree in civil engineering and a background in construction management. Shortly thereafter in San Francisco, David met the love of his life, Barbara. They were married a year later and moved to Elk Grove, California, living on 10 acres of land where David, the expert carpenter, built their house after work and on weekends. They even raised most of their own food. Over the next 37 years their lives and work took them many places including Iran and Saudi Arabia in the 1970s and 1980s, where they raised their daughters, Jennifer and Lisa, now both petroleum engineers. They moved to Sharon, Massachusetts in 1986 where David was the project manager of the Boston Harbor cleanup project for 13 years. He was proud of his involvement because not only did it end on time and under budget, but the environmental remediation greatly improved his favorite hobby – fishing! David also particularly enjoyed traveling especially if it meant visiting his daughters and helping them with home repair projects.

Throughout his life, David had a strong commitment to youth and to the importance of education. Prior to his death in 2007, David served on the board of the NSRC Fund, actively supporting this commitment. David enriched the lives of many, particularly young people to whom he was a mentor, impressing upon them the value of education and hard work. His family is pleased that students will continue to be helped through this scholarship that bears his name.

Chelsea Vorng  
Highline High School, Des Moines (Khmer)

During high school Chelsea was on the basketball team, tennis team, and swim team and says, “With the help of my family and friends, I learned to never lose hope and to never give up without a fight.” She was also president of the Mu Alpha Theta team and Public Relations Officer for the National Honor Society. In college, she plans to study neuroscience and volunteer within the Khmer community, “I hope to do research on mental health, and use it to bring affordable treatments and therapies to the Khmer community, along with other communities of color.”
Michi Nishiura Weglyn Scholarship
established by the NSRCF Board of Directors

Michi Nishiura Weglyn (1926–1999), author of Years of Infamy: The Untold Story of America’s Concentration Camps, was an ardent supporter of the NSRCF. She was born in Stockton, California and interned at Gila River, Arizona. With the help of the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council, she was able to leave Gila River to attend college. In 1997 Mrs. Weglyn wrote about the NSRCF awards ceremony held in New York City the year before:

“As I sat there watching the radiant faces of the youthful awardees, I found myself being transported back in time to the desert prison camp of Gila and recalling the joy I myself had felt a half-century back, on being told that, thanks to the resolute efforts of countless dedicated Caucasians who cared, I had received a scholarship to Mount Holyoke College. In that audience filled with proud family members and friends of those being honored, I sat with my heart full. As I watched some of the now legendary leaders of the NSRCF, I felt immense pride in the caliber of our own extraordinary Nisei, like Nobu Hibino and Lafayette Noda, who, through decades of hard work and sacrifice, have kept alive that legacy of giving and caring, exemplifying — like those wartime benefactors who had once come to our rescue — the finer ideals of mankind.”

Michi Weglyn herself exemplified the “extraordinary Nisei” by nearly single-handedly giving impetus to the national movement for redress and reparations for the wartime internment with the publication of her book. Up until her passing, she continued to lobby for compensation for Japanese American railroad workers, Japanese Latin Americans, and anyone else who was denied redress for any reason. May her contributions to the struggle for justice never be forgotten.

Phuong Phan
Kennedy Catholic High School, Burien (Vietnamese)

Phuong was president of her senior class, president of the Human Relations Club, and president of the Chamber Orchestra. She worked part-time, tutored refugees with the IRC, was an ACLU Advocacy Institute alumni, and Senate page. As a daughter of immigrants, it is very important to Phuong to advocate for the needs of all immigrants. One of her proudest achievements was organizing a protest to try to prevent an undocumented immigrant from being detained. The experience reminded her of the injustices her own parents faced and she is determined to acquire the skills to empower her community. Phuong will be attending the University of Washington in the Honors Program.
Kay Yamashita Scholarship established by Yutaka Kobayashi

Kay Yamashita was interned first at Tanforan, then at Topaz, Utah. She was one of the first Nisei to join the staff of the Student Relocation Council and played a key role in it. After the war Kay settled in Chicago, working with the World Student Service Fund and as a registrar at the University of Illinois. The following is an excerpt written by Yutaka Kobayashi in remembrance of Kay, 5/30/95:

I remember Kay as a friend, as a mother confessor, as a cheerleader, and as a mover. I was only a kid of 18 in Tanforan when she told me that I could go to college in New York when I did not have a dime in my pocket. I was to leave in September of 1942, but could not get clearance from the armed services. My dilemma continued until January of 1943 when Kay managed to get an emergency clearance for me to go to Alfred University in New York. She escorted me out of camp amid all the dust and cold and ushered me into an unknown world. I think about how Kay quietly and tirelessly went about planting the seeds that were to change the status of the Nisei generation in our society forever. This thin slip of a woman who had the vision, the conviction, and the hopes of our success. This woman who had the faith that the Nisei would overcome the adversities thrust upon us by the circumstances of war. She was the one who gave us hope, calmed our fears, and showed us the way. In my history book, Kay Yamashita is the patron saint of the Nisei collegians of World War II. She is truly a legend in our time.

Tracy Ha
John R. Rogers High School, Spokane (Vietnamese)

Tracy maintained a 4.0 GPA at the high school and college level while being active in the National Honor Society, Key Club, Girls Tennis, Skills USA, and the Vietnamese Buddhist community. Her experience visiting a developing country, as well as being a child of first-generation immigrants, has fueled her desire to serve underrepresented populations. Tracy aims to become involved in Doctors Without Borders and to work independently in facilities located in impoverished regions. Tracy will be attending Stanford University where she is planning to major in the health sciences with the intent of becoming a pediatric surgeon.

NSRCF Named Scholarships

NSRCF’s annual awards are made possible by contributions from individuals and organizations. Named Scholarships, Legacy Funds and Tribute Funds enable anyone, including organizations, to honor, commemorate or pay tribute to individuals, groups or events. The Named Scholarship supports a $2,000 annual scholarship and the Legacy Fund supports a $1,000 annual scholarship. If you would like information about establishing a Named Scholarship Fund (minimum $20,000), a Legacy Fund (minimum $10,000) or a Tribute Fund (minimum $2,000), please contact NSRCF at 19 Scenic Drive, Portland, CT 06480 or email info@nsrcfund.org.
$1,000 Scholarship Recipients

Asigiah Aly
Franklin High School, Seattle
(Cham)

Cam Che
Franklin High School, Seattle
(Vietnamese, Chinese)

Alexis Friedman
Hazen High School, Renton
(Khmu)

Henry Ho
Garfield High School, Seattle
(Vietnamese)

Andy Hoang
Lincoln High School, Tacoma
(Vietnamese)

Nhung Lam
Mountlake Terrace High School, Mountlake Terrace
(Vietnamese)

Tuoi Le
River Ridge High School, Lacey
(Vietnamese)

Paulina Mao
Lincoln High School, Tacoma
(Khmer)

Chalee Moua
John R. Rogers High School, Spokane
(Hmong)

David Nelson-Leang
Lynnwood High School, Bothell
(Khmer)

Hannah Nguyen
Edmonds-Woodway High School, Edmonds
(Vietnamese)

Hewah Soe
Joel E. Ferris High School, Spokane
(Burmese, Karen)

Jasmine Tran
Tahoma High School, Maple Valley
(Vietnamese)

Kevin Tran
Cleveland STEM High School, Seattle
(Vietnamese)

Emily Un
Chief Sealth International High School, Seattle
(Khmer)

Vivian Vo
Hazen High School, Renton
(Vietnamese)

Madison Vu
North Thurston High School, Olympia
(Vietnamese)
$500 Scholarship Recipients

Anna Bun
Interlake High School, Bellevue
(Khmer)

Brian Cao
Edmonds-Woodway High School, Edmonds
(Vietnamese)

Kim Cao
Evergreen High School, Seattle
(Vietnamese)

Bryan Duong
Hazen High School, Renton
(Vietnamese)

Erianha Esteban
Franklin High School, Seattle
(Khmer, Filipino)

Aaron Fhong
Chief Sealth International High School, Seattle
(Mien, Thai)

Brian Ho
Cascade Senior High School, Everett
(Vietnamese)

Doan Hoang
Woodrow Wilson High School, Tacoma
(Vietnamese)

Lilli Huong
Franklin Pierce High School, Tacoma
(Khmer)

Emily Le
Juanita High School, Kirkland
(Vietnamese, Chinese)

Jameel Le
Lindbergh High School, Renton
(Cham, Chinese)

Jazlyn Munoz
Fife High School, Fife
(Khmer, Hispanic)

Anna Nguyen
Franklin High School, Seattle
(Vietnamese)

Bao-Tran Nguyen
Cleveland High School, Seattle
(Vietnamese)

Doan Nguyen
Edmonds-Woodway High School, Edmonds
(Vietnamese)

Kenny Nguyen
Summit Sierra High School, Seattle
(Vietnamese)
$500 Scholarship Recipients

Nike Nguyen
Interlake High School, Bellevue
(Vietnamese)

Vanny Nguyen
Lynnwood High School, Bothell
(Vietnamese)

Vy Nguyen
Hazen High School, Renton
(Vietnamese)

Phuong Uyen Nguyen Vo
Rainier Beach High School, Seattle
(Vietnamese)

Brenda Pham
Kent Meridian High School, Kent
(Vietnamese)

Cynthia Pham
Ingraham High School, Seattle
(Vietnamese)

Hana Phan
Meadowdale High School, Lynnwood
(Vietnamese)

Leo Scott-Rifer
Summit Sierra Public School, Seattle
(Khmer)

JaLyssa Tiengkhamsaly
Stadium High School, Tacoma
Lao, Vietnamese

Selena Tran
Lincoln High School, Tacoma
(Vietnamese, Chinese)

Vivian Tran
Lindbergh Senior High School, Renton
(Vietnamese)

Kevin Vu
Hudson's Bay High School, Vancouver
(Vietnamese)

Mia A. Yi
North Thurston High School, Olympia
(Khmer, Korean)
Pacific Islander Scholarship Recipients

**Hayley Gin Iglecias**  
Federal Way High School, Federal Way (Chamorro)

Hayley was born on the island of Saipan located in the Mariana Islands. She loves to dance and be surrounded by nature. She volunteered for her church, at summer camp, and served meals to the homeless and refugees. Hayley wants to open businesses back home and do what she can to help the island’s economy. She will be attending the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo and her goals are to obtain a bachelor’s degree in Business Management and a certificate in Hospitality and Tourism.

**Vinial Kumar**  
Kent Meridian High School, Kent (Fijian)

Vinial knows that hard work pays off. In high school he made the honor roll and was selected as a Student Ambassador for the Scholars with Purpose Afterschool Program. He competed with his school’s soccer team, was a member of the Engineering Club, and volunteered with the Kent Police. He kicked off his career goals by participating in the Running Start Program which enabled him to earn college credit while still in high school. Vinial will continue to attend Green River College as a freshman and plans to transfer to a university to pursue his interest in Civil Engineering.

**Ishmael Togi**  
Highline High School, Burien (Samoan)

Ishmael finished high school with a 3.7 GPA while at the same time received an associate’s degree in multimedia. He was a member of the National Honor Society, Key Club, and Future Business Leaders of America. He played football for the first time his senior year and received a football scholarship to attend Simon Fraser University in British Columbia, Canada. He plans to major in business administration and minor in cinematic arts. Ishmael hopes to own his own video production business and will use his passion for the multimedia field to encourage other Pacific Islander students to explore their options and see the many paths that are available to them.

**Akina Yada**  
Evergreen High School, Seattle (Micronesian)

Akina plans to further her education and use her knowledge to help the children on her home island of Palau to aspire and reach post-secondary education. She was student body president and found the time to for three varsity sports. She volunteered through her church and in the community. Akina wants to combine her passion for art and helping others to help the next generation of Palauans. She will be attending Whitworth University and plans to study abroad as an upper-classman to experience different cultures and develop leadership skills.
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