A Measure of our Mission
Improving Educational Attainment
One Student at a Time.
$428,350 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

74 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AWARDED
175 CONTINUING COLLEGE STUDENTS AWARDED

658 APPLICATIONS REVIEWED
91 VOLUNTEER EVALUATORS

$800 AVERAGE SCHOLARSHIP FOR UNDERGRADS AT TWO-YEAR SCHOOLS

$1,771 AVERAGE SCHOLARSHIP FOR UNDERGRADS AT FOUR-YEAR SCHOOLS

82% RECEIPIENTS ARE FIRST IN FAMILY TO ATTEND COLLEGE

409 ELIGIBLE STUDENTS DENIED FUNDING - TOGETHER, WE CAN CHANGE THAT!
Dear Friends,

In 2015, Kern Community Foundation launched Kern Futures, embracing Kern’s educational attainment as a core strategic initiative. We are rooted in a belief that education begins early and reaches beyond high school, that it is a prerequisite to success in a knowledge-based economy, that it is for everyone, and that it is a public good.

To this end, we adopted a three-fold strategy to ensure long-term, impactful results. With assistance from a generous 5-year grant from the College Futures Foundation, we cultivated a robust portfolio of accessible scholarship funds, that have allowed us to award over 1,000 scholarships, totaling nearly $2.2 million since 2015. Perhaps more importantly, our portfolio of scholarship funds has grown to 29 individual funds, totaling nearly $3 million – many of which are permanently endowed, granting scholarships to Kern County students for generations to come.

Next, we developed a comprehensive College Success Program to support our award recipients. You see, for us, scholarship giving is not just about getting students to college. Instead we see scholarships as investments in the future and, more than anything, we want students to complete college, university, or even vocational school and successfully enter the workforce.

Finally, we convened education and community leaders, connecting existing efforts to build greater momentum and opportunities for success while also identifying a common agenda for improving student outcomes. The result has been the Kern Education Pledge – a county-wide collective impact model linking together school districts and higher education institutions.

The trajectory for increasing educational attainment is promising, but clearly there is more to do. In 2019 alone, we turned away more than 400 deserving applicants due to lack of funding. With your help, Kern Community Foundation is committed to improving the quality of life in Kern County. Together we can increase access to educational opportunities and lighten the burden for Kern County students determined to better themselves. Please review the following pages – we think you will be inspired – and consider joining us in this work.

Kristen Beall Watson
President & CEO
Program Overview

Kern Futures, a strategic initiative of Kern Community Foundation, is grounded in a commitment to increase the level of educational attainment in Kern County. With one in four Kern residents living below the federal poverty level and just one in five Kern residents possessing an associate degree or higher, education is the single most important investment we can make to reduce poverty, boost economic growth and increase income levels. The case for pursuing post-secondary education could not be clearer. College graduates are generally healthier, more financially secure, and more actively engaged in their communities than their peers with simply a high school diploma.

Why Kern County Needs Educational Attainment

Education reduces poverty, boosts economic growth, and increases income.

Starting in 2020, 67% of California jobs require education beyond high school.

Education Makes A Difference

Research shows that college graduates:
- Will earn nearly $1 million more over the course of a 40-year working life
- Are more likely to have a pension or retirement account
- Have higher employment rates
- Live an average of nine years longer
- Vote and volunteer more
- Pay more taxes
- Require less public assistance

The growing cost of attending college presents a daunting task for many students and their families, however. Among the Class of 2018, 69% of students took out student loans, and they graduated with an average debt of $29,800.

Invest in Education Through Kern Community Foundation

- Fund an annual scholarship award
- Establish a permanently endowed scholarship fund
- Provide unrestricted support – your gift will be used where it is most needed
- Donate in honor or memory of a friend, colleague, or loved one
- Create a lasting legacy gift to ensure that this work continues
Since 2015, Kern Community Foundation has embraced a three-fold strategy to ensure long-term, impactful results. Here are a few highlights:

**Convene Kern’s Educational Leaders to Create a Blueprint for Student Success:**
Launched in 2015, the Kern Education Pledge unites educational leaders at every level (PK-20) with community stakeholders to embrace an integrated Cradle to Career solution using principles of continuous improvement and a collective impact framework.

“No single program or institution can singlehandedly solve the complex, large-scale, education and workforce readiness challenges facing our community.” - Kern Education Pledge

**Establish a Robust Portfolio of Accessible Scholarship Funds:**
Since 2015, 1,069 scholarships have been awarded totaling $2,151,828. Additionally, Kern Community Foundation’s scholarship portfolio has grown to some 27 scholarship funds totaling nearly $3 million. Many of these funds are permanently endowed and will grant scholarships to Kern County students for generations to come.

**Develop a Comprehensive College Success Program to Support Scholarship Recipients:**
Our College Success Program focuses on getting students through their postsecondary education—and it’s working! Fifty-eight percent of students who participated in the program since 2015 and received scholarship awards consistently during that time, graduated in 4 years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cumulative Impact Since 2015</th>
<th>$2.2 Million in Scholarships Awarded to More Than 1,000 Local Students</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$2.2 Million</td>
<td>1,069 Local Students</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Since 2015, Kern Community Foundation has awarded $2.2 million in scholarships to over 1,000 local students through its comprehensive College Success Program.
What Kern County High Schools Have They Attended?

- Arvin High School
- Bakersfield Christian High School
- Bakersfield High School
- Burroughs High School
- Centennial High School
- Cesar E. Chavez High School
- Delano High School
- East Bakersfield High School
- Foothill High School
- Frontier High School
- Garces Memorial High School
- Golden Valley High School
- Highland High School
- Independence High School
- Kern Valley High School
- Liberty High School
- Maricopa High School
- McFarland High School
- Mira Monte High School
- North High School
- Robert F. Kennedy High School
- Rosamond High School
- Shafter High School
- South High School
- Stockdale High School
- Taft Union High School
- Tehachapi High School
- Wasco High School
- West High School
- Wonderful College Prep Academy

Where Do They Go?

- American University
- Bakersfield College
- Baylor University
- Boise State University
- Brigham Young University
- California Aeronautical University
- California Baptist University
- California College of the Arts
- California State University, Bakersfield
- California State University, Channel Islands
- California State University, Chico
- California State University, Dominguez Hills
- California State University, Fresno
- California State University, Long Beach
- California State University, Monterey Bay
- California State University, Northridge
- California State University, Pomona
- California State University, Sacramento
- California State University, San Luis Obispo
- California State University, San Marcos
- California State University, Stanislaus
- Cerro Coso Community College
- Coastline Community College
- College of the Canyon
- Colorado State University
- Dordt University
- Fresno Pacific University
- Grand Canyon University
- Harvard University
- Monmouth College
- Norwich University
- Pepperdine University
- Purdue University
- Rose Hulman Institute of Technology
- Saint Mary's College of California
- San Diego State University
- San Francisco State University
- San Jose State University
- Scripps College
- Stanford University
- Taft College
- Texas A&M University
- Thomas More University
- Union College
- University of California, Berkeley
- University of California, Davis
- University of California, Irvine
- University of California, Los Angeles
- University of California, Merced
- University of California, Riverside
- University of California, San Diego
- University of California, Santa Barbara
- University of California, Santa Cruz
- University of Southern California
- Vanguard University

About Our Students

What Do They Study?

- Business: 10%
- STEM: 54%
- Environment: 5%
- Literature/Language/Social Sciences: 27%
- Arts: 4%

What Types of Colleges Do They Attend?

- California State University: 45%
- University of California: 35%
- Private: Out of State: 12%
- California Community College: 8%
Ramanjit Mann, a 2019 Independence High school graduate, has big plans to maintain an active role at the University of California, Davis. Early in her high school career, Ramanjit joined Forensics and instantly felt a connection to the field of human rights. After her first debate tournament, she knew she wanted to be a human rights lawyer. Ramanjit co-founded the United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund at Independence in an effort to increase awareness of human rights issues and provide more opportunities for public service. Ramanjit’s involvement in UNICEF helped solidify her goals to one day focus on women and children’s rights as a lawyer. “I really love politics and want to get my bachelor’s degree in political science. I want to join student government and do an internship at the state capital. I also want to study abroad and love meeting new people and languages,” said Ramanjit.

A Links for Life scholarship recipient, Ramanjit is grateful to Kern Community Foundation for their support. “I honestly thank this Foundation so much. They are so invested in our education and put so much effort into making sure we succeed. It is really heartwarming to receive not only financial assistance, but also a support system along with the scholarship,” said Ramanjit.

Carlos Rodriguez Orozco, a California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo student, plans to pursue his passions while experiencing college to the fullest. A 2019 Centennial High School graduate, Carlos developed an interest in engineering after joining Centennial’s Robotics club. He discovered his love for problem-solving and troubleshooting and plans to major in mechanical engineering at Cal Poly. In addition to engineering, Carlos is passionate about business, actively participating in the Virtual Business program at Centennial as the Director of Sales and Products. “When it comes to me seeing a future career, I like the idea of being an entrepreneur and being able to do my own thing but I also like the idea of building and making things,” said Carlos.

Carlos is also proud of his involvement in Militantes de Cristo, a religious club at Centennial that guides students through their faith while serving the community. He hopes to join Cal Poly’s Rotaract Club and expand his interests by joining nature groups and exploring the culinary arts.

As a Caratan scholarship recipient, he is grateful to be able to focus less on funding his education and more on joining clubs and participating in activities in college. To the Foundation, Carlos says, “Thank you. The Foundation helps me with planning to go to college and it’s nice knowing I can always rely on it for resources and advice.”
Balancing school work and staying involved with the campus community can be challenging, but Francisco De La Pena, a first-generation college student and Bakersfield High School alumnus, proved that anything is possible with hard work and dedication. While earning his bachelor’s degree in Business Administration, Francisco found many ways to stay involved throughout his four years at California State University, Bakersfield. He represented his classmates as Director of Business and Public Administration in the CSUB Student Government Associated Union, Inc. and is a founding father of CSUB’s Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity. “Alpha Sigma was a good opportunity to start from scratch and really make an impact. Although it was a lot of work and I put in a lot of hours, I really got a lot out of it and met some great people,” says Francisco. As a result of his accomplishments, Francisco received the CSUB Student Leadership Hall of Fame award.

As a recipient of the Oscar and Libbie Rudnick Scholarship throughout college, Francisco was able to engage with his school’s community and focus on his studies. “To Kern Community Foundation, thank you for all the help. I’m really glad a resource like this is available for students,” said Francisco, who was recently accepted into CSUB’s Master of Public Administration program.

Raven Dean, a 2019 graduate of the University of California, Los Angeles, developed a passion for teaching through her involvement in clubs on campus. With UCLA’s Project Spell, Raven worked with service staff on campus who wanted to learn or improve their English. She was also a part of Proyecto de Jornaleros, an organization helping workers in the community advocate for their rights by providing them with language resources and support. A West High School graduate, Raven is the first in her family to go to college. She received the Oscar and Libbie Rudnick Scholarship throughout college and is grateful for the financial assistance it offered her alongside the opportunities it allowed her to pursue. With a major in psychology, Raven developed an interest in mental health and continues to integrate what she has learned into educational spaces around her. Raven is currently employed at California Language Academy in Los Angeles working with students who wish to advance their English skills. She finds her job very rewarding and considers becoming a teacher one day. “This feels like something I would enjoy doing for the rest of my life. I think teaching psychology to high school students would be fun,” she said. “Thank you so much to the Foundation for all your support,” said Raven. “I don’t know what my college experience would have been like without it.”
Our College Success Program

Scholarships are a powerful tool for getting students to college, but to change our outcomes, we need to ensure more students are completing college. Our comprehensive College Success Program is designed to support your awardees while protecting your investment. Here’s how:

County-Wide Student Outreach

- **Comprehensive Student Outreach**: We blanket Kern County with dozens of in-person presentations to hundreds of students and counselors.
- **Coordinated Messaging**: With a multi-layered marketing approach that includes print, television, radio and social media, our applicant pool is large and diverse.
- **Donor Driven Awards**: You select the criteria, we find the eligible students.

An Efficient Application Process

- **One Online Application**: With just a single submission, students become candidates for dozens of scholarship opportunities.
- **Due Diligence**: We collect all the necessary documentation and verify student eligibility.
- **Thorough Evaluation**: Each student essay is read and scored twice by a small army of volunteer evaluators.
- **Student Selection Options**: Donors may use a committee to select recipients or allow us to make the final selection.

Continuous Follow-Up & Support

- **Academic Advising**: We help your awardee identify the right classes and understand the requirements to graduate before they start college.
- **Career Counseling**: What will your awardee be doing after college? We’ll be sure they’ve thought ahead.
- **Annual Personal Growth Projects**: From personal finance to connecting with local industry leaders, we encourage awardees to go beyond academics.

Stewarding Your Resources

- **Coordination with Financial Aid Offices**: We ensure that each awardee is accessing all available funding to maximize your investment.
- **Payment Processing**: Scholarship awards are paid directly to each awardee’s school after proof of enrollment is provided.
- **Transcript Review**: How is your awardee doing quarter to quarter? We’ll check-in and find out.
Invest in Local Students

We make investing in local students easier than you think. Any one of the following options provides students with financial support and access to our College Success Program, increasing opportunities for persistence and completion.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOLARSHIPS TOGETHER</th>
<th>SCHOLARSHIPS NOW</th>
<th>SCHOLARSHIPS FOREVER</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Support students</td>
<td>Support students</td>
<td>You create a permanently endowed fund to award scholarships forever.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as a community.</td>
<td>one year at a time.</td>
<td>We work with you to design scholarship criteria and then handle all of the administrative details, using our knowledge and experience to protect your investment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invest in students now to create a better future for all. Your contribution is pooled with others to create a permanent endowment, awarding scholarships in perpetuity. Your gift is leveraged for greater impact.</td>
<td>Use Kern Community Foundation’s robust scholarship platform to make your company or organization’s scholarship campaign easier and more impactful. You tell us the criteria and award amounts and we take care of all the rest!</td>
<td>You create a permanently endowed fund to award scholarships forever. We work with you to design scholarship criteria and then handle all of the administrative details, using our knowledge and experience to protect your investment.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Donation Amount</th>
<th>Donation Amount</th>
<th>Donation Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>You Choose!</td>
<td>$1,000 Minimum</td>
<td>$25,000 Minimum</td>
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<tr>
<th>Fee</th>
<th>Fee</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None!</td>
<td>$100 Per Award</td>
<td>Standard Endowed Fund Fee + 1% if using a Customized Selection Committee</td>
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**KERN FUTURES**

Examples:
- Links for Life – Mary Anne Walz Scholarships
- Edison International STEM Scholarships
- Bakersfield Rotary – Waterman Foundation Scholarships

Examples:
- George & Helen Stewart Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Nickel Family Scholarship for Agricultural Education Fund
- Caratan Family Scholarship Fund

The David Moore Agricultural Scholarship Fund

When local farmer and agriculture leader, David Moore, died in 2001, Western Growers Association collected contributions from friends, family members and business associates to establish a permanently-endowed scholarship fund at Kern Community Foundation in his memory. Over the years, the Fund’s assets grew and in May 2014, under the leadership of David’s grandson, John Moore III, the David Moore Agricultural Scholarship Fund awarded its first scholarships to two graduates of Kern County high schools who wished to pursue a career in agriculture. Since 2014, the Fund has awarded over $15,000 in scholarships to deserving students studying agricultural and environmental plant science, ag business, and even animal science at such esteemed schools as Fresno State, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and Iowa State.

“My grandfather was my hero,” says John when asked about why a busy young farmer like himself would get involved in overseeing the scholarship fund. “There is a person in each family that binds everyone together, and my grandfather was that person for our family. This scholarship fund is a way for me to help carry on his legacy.”
2019 Evaluators

Thank you to our community volunteers who generously donate time to read first-time scholarship applications. Over a four-week period, spanning March and April, 91 evaluators read 460 student essays in 2019. Each essay is read by two separate evaluators and given two sets of scores – one for content and one for quality. These scores are combined to calculate an average that is added to our internal scoring rubric. Our volunteers play a critical and impartial role in the awarding process and we are grateful for their commitment.

Antonio Alfaro
Marcus Barnette
Joanne Barrick
David Bartels
Victoria Barton
Christine Birkholz
Alyse Braaten
Esther Brandon
Kim Bravo
Dom Buck
Lydia Caceres
Jessica Carrillo
Amber Chiang
Kat Clowes
Chandra Commuri
Esparanza Contreras
Jeff Coomber
Mike Crouch
Allie Cushnyr
Kerri Davis
David Denison
Jeremy Doyle
Bob Eichenberg
Gabriela Figueroa
Carlos Flores
Christy Fraley
Maribel Galvan
Gisela Gaona
Martha Gonzalez
Valerie Gorospe

Jeff Green
Oscar Guevara
Samantha Guillery
Jeffrey Gutierrez
Hillary Haenes
Katherine Hall
Nichole Hamblin
Lindsay Harrison
Tina Healy
Ryan Hernandez
Kim Hobbs
Debra Jackson
Odella Johnson
Georjeann Key-Miller
Nicole Knauer
Libia Le
Agustin Lee
Justin Leland
Jaime Lopez
Christopher Lowe
Jessica Mathews
Linda McDermott
Colleen McGauley
Lorenzo Michaels
Denise Mondragon
John Moore
Ali Moser
Deirdre O’Rourke

Ann Pena
Patricia Perez-Ramirez
Michael Powell
Alexandra Rieke
Emiliano Rivera
Susan Rizo
Deneene Roberson
Angelica Rodriguez
Monica Rodriguez
Lilly Rosenberger
Remy Rueda
Vanessa Sanchez
Steve Sanders
Jeffrey Schroer
Billy Shollenberger
Eric Slage
Amy Smith
Judy Snyder
Kathy Stiles
Kate Tandy
Frederick Thomas
Jennifer Thurston
Teresa Twisselman
Meredith Valenzuela
Tonya Vallicela
Julia Vlahos
Clarissa Wilstead
Tijera Worley
Joey Yi
Ulya Young

Scholarship Funds

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Kappa Eta Lambda Chapter Scholarship Fund
Arvin Union Congregational Church Scholarship Fund
Arvin Women’s Club - Ellen Kovacevich Scholarship Fund
Bailey Schweitzer Memorial Scholarship Fund
Caratan Family Scholarship Fund
CCS Transition Scholarship Fund
David Anderson Athletic Scholarship Fund
David Moore Agricultural Scholarship Fund
Derek Brown Memorial Scholarship Fund
Dr. Joseph E. Anderson Scholarship Fund
Dr. Richard P. Pierucci Scholarship Fund
East Bakersfield High School Class of 1957 – Ron Robison Memorial Scholarship Fund
Eunice Sears Scholarship for Music Fund

Honor Run Scholarship Fund
Jack Beaton Memorial Scholarship Fund
Kern Futures Scholarship Fund
Kern Futures Scholarships Now Fund
Kern Futures Scholarships Together Fund
Kern High School District Counselors Scholarship Fund
Larry Carr Memorial Scholarship Fund
Manuel Gonzales Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund
Nickel Family Scholarship for Agricultural Education Fund
Oscar and Libbie Rudnick Scholarship Fund
Sean E. Farley Memorial Scholarship Fund
Sheriff’s Employees’ Benefit Association Scholarship Fund
The Arvin Women’s Club Scholarship Fund
The George and Helen Stewart Memorial Scholarship Fund
The Kern Futures initiative is grounded in the belief that

Education begins early and reaches beyond high school
Kern Futures uses the term “education” to refer to the continuum that begins with early childhood preparation and results in the attainment of valuable postsecondary credentials and degrees.

Education is a necessity
Education is a prerequisite to success in a knowledge-based economy. Our future workforce must pursue and complete a postsecondary credential or degree beyond high school.

Education is for everyone
Educational attainment rates among low-income students and students of color are significantly lower than those of other students. Kern Futures is committed to closing these gaps.

Education is a public good
Educational opportunities and attainment are critical to a just and equitable society, strong economy, and healthy community.