



## CONGRATULATIONS 2015 GRADUATES!

Dear PCF Supporters,

During my first six months at the Peninsula College Fund I've had a chance to meet many dedicated PCF supporters, and recently had the pleasure to celebrate the accomplishments of our newest 11 PCF graduates at our annual Awards Ceremony. We also welcomed 20 new PCF Scholars, for a total of 74 active scholars in our program. I'm very pleased to report that our fiscal year closed on solid financial footing once again. All of this could not have happened without the commitment of supporters like you.

We'll be celebrating PCF's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a community breakfast on October 15. Many lives have been changed over the past ten years and we expect to grow and have an even greater impact over the next ten. I hope you will join us! More information is included in this newsletter.

I would like to recognize Board members Mark Cator and Marlon Nichols who have completed their term of service. Mark served on the Governance Committee and as Secretary, and has provided much needed insight and strategic thought to PCF. Marlon has provided stellar service as Treasurer and on the



### **Upcoming Events**

(click below to learn more)

[College & Career Success Day](#)

[August 1, 2015 8:00am - 6:00pm](#)

[10th Anniversary Celebration & Community Engagement Breakfast](#)

[October 15, 2015 7:30am-9:00am](#)

Finance Committee. I am pleased to note that although Mark is stepping down from the Board, he will remain on the Governance Committee. Board member Michelle Soto will serve as our new Treasurer, and Melissa Sandoval will become Secretary.

[DONATE NOW](#)

A big welcome to Teon Robinson, who joined PCF in May as a Program Coordinator. Teon is a native of North Carolina. He holds a B.S. in Business Administration from Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina. Teon's previous work experience includes nonprofit administration and construction project management.

If you would like to get more involved with PCF, please don't hesitate to contact me directly at 650-779-5001.

Warm regards,



Phillip Powell, Executive Director

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## Congratulations to the Class of 2015! Welcome to the Class of 2019!



The 2015 Awards Ceremony was an inspirational and celebratory evening for our 20 new PCF Scholars, 11 new college graduates, their families, mentors and community members.

The ceremony began with the introduction of our new PCF Scholars who are graduates from six of our partner high schools on the Peninsula and heading off to colleges throughout California and the US.

We then heard a compelling personal narrative, titled *From Surviving to Thriving*, by Alicia Morgan, Founder and CEO of No. 8 Media, Inc., followed by heartwarming stories of each of our newest college graduates by PCF Founder, Charles Schmuck. Following a PCF tradition, each graduate was presented with a crystal apple to remind them of their educational journey and proud accomplishments. A group of PCF alumni were also on hand to welcome the graduates to their next exciting phase.

With this new class of 20 PCF Scholars, we have a total of 74 students actively participating in the PCF Scholar Program, and a total of 51 PCF graduates. This annual celebration reinforces that

PCF is achieving its goal to create lasting social and economic change by nurturing the talents of these future leaders!

[CLICK HERE](#) to see where our incoming class (picture above) is headed this fall.

[CLICK HERE](#) to see our graduating Class of 2015.

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## A Successful Drive Funds Our Incoming Class!



We launched the Go4It! campaign in October, 2014 to encourage 4-year donation pledges so we can better plan as we add new PCF Scholars and support them through to college graduation. Over the next seven months we had a great response, with 20 donors making new, 4-year pledges from \$5,000+ a year to \$500+ a year.

Because of this, we will enter our new fiscal year with funding for all 20 of our new PCF Scholars during their four years of college. This includes a four-year scholarship from one of our partner colleges, Notre Dame

de Namur University.

We want to thank our Sustaining Scholarship Circle Members from this year and previous years, and encourage you to consider making a pledge to allow us bring on even more scholars next June! To inquire, please contact our Executive Director, Phillip Powell, [phillip@peninsulacollegefund.org](mailto:phillip@peninsulacollegefund.org).

<u>FOUNDER'S CIRCLE</u>	
Blach Construction	Innovate Foundation
Rich and Carlee Brown	Rotary Club - Menlo Park
David and Jan Ehrhardt	Sand Hill Foundation
Mark Flegel	James T. Schmuck Family
Asha and R.V. Guha	Sonsini Family Fund
Mudita Jain & Vineet Gupta	Jay and Bonnie Tenenbaum
Cristina and Bill Harris	Douglas and Christina Tudor
Kristen Hughes and Tony Loeser	

<u>SCHOLAR CIRCLE</u>	
Manuel and Mari Alba	Ross Darwin
Benefraim-Rodrigues Foundation	
<u>LEADERSHIP CIRCLE</u>	
David and Elyse Barca	Denise & Woody Shackelton
Alison Elliott and Steven Blank	Greg Stern
Alan and Dorothy Marshall	

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## PCF Scholar Spotlight

### Alexis Straiten, Loyola Marymount University



Thanks to the involvement of our local Morgan Stanley office, one of our PCF Scholars, Alexis Straiten, was competitively selected to attend The Early Insights Program sponsored by Morgan Stanley in New York City. The Early Insights program is designed to provide Black and Hispanic college students interested in exploring a career in finance an opportunity to learn about the industry sector and the type of available careers.

We are pleased to share Alexis' account of her experience:

*"There were many students like myself who applied for this opportunity, so I felt fortunate to have been selected to attend this one-day event in New York. My time there was filled with meeting a diverse group of intelligent students from around the U.S. excited for the opportunity to learn. We took a tour of a trading floor and saw the busy lifestyle of those that worked from 6am until long after the markets closed. We had an opportunity to hear industry*

*perspectives from first year analysts and managing Directors who had twenty years+ industry experience to learn about how they reached the top in their fields. At the second part of the program we had the chance to network within the various departments for future recruiting and internship opportunities. One of the biggest take home messages for me was about the Morgan Stanley organization itself. This company prides themselves on building an inclusive culture, one that invites*

*open communication and collaboration among its employees to provide their customers with a knowledgeable team of financial experts to guide their investments. I now have a new perspective of the financial industry and the types of career paths available, from investment management and global finance to wealth management. I am looking forward to future engagement with Morgan Stanley!*

*Overall, the opportunity was remarkable. I am so grateful that I was invited to apply by Peninsula College Fund and for the generosity of Morgan Stanley to underwrite my trip, as I would not have been able to participate otherwise.”*

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## Listen In ... For First-Generation Students, Graduating From College Takes Grit and Grown-Up Support

KQED's The California Report (May 29th)

By Rachael Myrow



KQED

For First-Generation Students, Graduating From College Takes Grit and Grown-Up Support

2 hours

#Learning



This time of year, we're posting selfies with happy college graduates and forwarding inspirational commencement speeches — and why not? Graduation is a righteous achievement. But it's a lot harder for some than others. Especially for low-income students who are the first in their families to go to college.

Dalia Angel was always headed up and out of East Menlo Park. “Because I'm young and I'm motivated and I feel like I need to get out of where I was born, at least a step higher,” she says.

She's the fourth of seven children. Her dad's a gardener; her mom, a nanny. She wants to be a lawyer.

Many first-generation students like Angel never graduate from college. They get lost for a number of reasons: poverty, poor K-12 schools, parents who can't really help much. But Angel, who is 21, got into a program called the Peninsula College Fund, which supports kids like her with \$12,000 in scholarship money, career workshops, summer internships and mentoring. [\(READ MORE\)](#)

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## PCF Alumni Spotlight

### Elisabeth Magana, 2011 UCLA Graduate and President of the PCF Alumni Association



Elisabeth shares her PCF story:

*"I attended Eastside College Prep and received my degree in Chicana/o Studies with a minor in Education from UCLA in 2011. After working as a financial literacy instructor at Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center in East Palo Alto, I recently accepted a position as operating manager at Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Bay Area. I first connected with this non-profit when I interned at Ronald McDonald House at Stanford through a PCF introduction.*

*PCF has done so much for me, it is impossible to fully express it. With the four-year financial support, I was able to attend my dream school. My PCF mentors helped me overcome social and academic challenges which helped me stay in college and graduate with valuable skills. PCF embodies social justice, love, opportunity and dedication and I will forever be grateful for the path it is paving for students like myself. I remain close to PCF and my fellow scholars by serving as the president of the PCF Alumni Association, which now has 51 members, and growing! We support each other through networking, participate in PCF events and committees, and provide financial support*

*to PCF to continue to play it forward!"*

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## Young Peninsula Professionals Attend PCF Social Event



Over 60 young professionals who live and work on the Peninsula joined PCF staff and alumni at Gordon Biersch in Palo Alto on May 14th to learn more about the organization and how they could contribute to its success.

We raised over \$6,000 through two corporate sponsors, Charles Schwab and Bingham, Osborn & Scarborough, ticket sales and a raffle. The proceeds will go towards helping Peninsula College Fund (PCF) fulfill our mission.

Thanks to those who attended, and particularly to Ross Darwin, who chaired the event. We look forward to

engaging these talented young professionals in future volunteer efforts.

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## Save The Date -- Mark Your Calendar!



### 10th Anniversary Celebration & Community Engagement Breakfast

When: **October 15th, 7:30 am to 9:00 am**  
Where: **Menlo Circus Club**  
190 Park Lane, Atherton

Jessica Aguirre, NBC Bay Area News Anchor and Education Achievement Advocate will be our special guest.

This is a hosted event. Reservations are required.

RSVP: <http://pcfbreakfast2015.eventbrite.com>  
or email Karen Canty, [kvscanty@comcast.net](mailto:kvscanty@comcast.net), to make your reservation.

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## Thank You for Generously Supporting PCF's Mission!

We are deeply grateful to the following Foundations for their support during our recent fiscal year.

Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation	Leo M. Shortino Family Foundation
Charles Schwab Foundation	Palo Alto Community Foundation
Dean Witter Foundation	Rise to College
Facebook Local Community Fund	Sand Hill Scholars Fund

Harvey and Maud Sorensen Foundation	The David & Lucile Packard Foundation
Lantern League	The O'Donnell Foundation
Innovate Foundation	Wells Fargo Foundation

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Please visit our website at: [www.peninsulacollegefund.org](http://www.peninsulacollegefund.org)



**Peninsula College Fund**

Sobrato Center for Nonprofits - Redwood Shores

330 Twin Dolphin Drive, Suite 131

Redwood City, CA 94065

[Link to Directions](#)

**Phone: (650) 779-5000**