



## SUCCESS IN COLLEGE, SUCCESS IN LIFE

Dear PCF Supporters,

Time certainly flies when you're having fun! I celebrated my one year anniversary as PCF's CEO in January, and am grateful and inspired by the support of our faithful PCF donors and volunteers. We have accomplished a lot in the past 12 months!

I am pleased to welcome Zarrah Birdie and Lydia Kearny from the UC Berkeley Board Fellows Program. They are participants in an experiential learning program for graduate students created to develop the next generation of nonprofit board leadership. Zarrah and Lydia have joined PCF's board as non-voting members for the academic year, providing them exposure to our mission and guiding leadership. As part of the program, Board Fellows undertake a strategic project with support from their faculty and coaches at the Center for Social Sector Leadership, Zarrah and Lydia are assessing PCF's mentor program and will create a mentor/mentee best practices document, which will be completed in May of 2016.

We are ramping up our efforts to add to the number of Scholarship Circle members who make four-year pledges to sponsor an incoming freshman scholar. Our goal this year is to be able to grow to 25 incoming scholars from among the 56 qualified applicants we are assessing. To date we have 8 fully funded scholars, and need your help to reach our growth goal. See the Go4It! article later in this newsletter for more information. Each scholar accepted to our program is also paired with a one-on-one mentor during their four years of college. We are actively recruiting mentors who are looking for a deep and high-impact volunteer

opportunity to support a young adult. Maybe you know someone who would be a great mentor? Let them know about us! For more information visit: <http://peninsulacollegefund.org/how-you-can-help/volunteer/>

Lastly, PCF has a small staff and we would love more part-time volunteers to provide administrative and event support. See the article in this newsletter with highlights of these year-long volunteer needs. Please consider designating some of your time to lend your talents to our scholar program.

Thank you all for your continued support of PCF!

Warm regards,



Phillip Powell  
CEO

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## Career Success Training for PCF Scholars Winter Break 2015



A key focus of PCF's scholar program is to boost the career readiness skills of our scholars to prepare them for successful entry into the workforce upon graduation. Our recent scholar training was held on December 19, 2015. The workshops were developed to provide interactive experiences for students to engage in work-related projects with industry professionals, such as case-studies and presentations to hone critical thinking, verbal and written communications, team engagement and leadership skills. Our students took full advantage of the experience, and we want to thank all our volunteers, including professionals from Morgan Stanley,

Google, Salesforce and a large contingent from SAP. Thank you for your generous commitment of time to support our scholars!

*Photo collage at the top of this newsletter is from Career Success Day. (Photographer: Eric Marshall)*

## PCF's Founder Receives Prestigious Service Award



Congratulations to PCF founder, Charles Schmuck, who was honored with a regional Jefferson Award for Public Service at a ceremony held in San Francisco on January 13, 2016. He was joined at the ceremony by his sister, Mary Fitzgerald, who is a long-time PCF mentor, and his daughter, Heidi Scharrenberg.

Charles was chosen for his “uncommon dedication to ensuring the success of a new generation of scholars –not just by providing them with financial assistance, but with the support they need to thrive.” Those of us who have experienced Charles’ inspirational

leadership during these past ten years could not agree more!

To watch a special news feature about PCF produced by KPIX-TV, click on the link:: <http://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2016/01/04/minority-students-thrive-with-support-from-peninsula-college-fund/>

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## PCF Alumni Spotlight

### Daniel Valencia-Lopez, Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine



Daniel is our first PCF graduate to be accepted into medical school. He is attending Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine in Virginia and we are proud to share his update with you.....

Greetings everyone!

First of all, medical school is all I ever wanted! I’m the happiest person on Earth because I am pursuing my lifelong dream to become a doctor. I love my professors, my classes, my classmates/friends, and the new me! I have become more mature, patient, understanding, and caring.

Second, I survived my first block, which is sort of like the first semester, and I passed all of my classes! I have mastered so much in so little time! For example, all of the sciences taken in undergrad I had to retake in less than 11 weeks. I had to learn the skeletal system in two weeks, disease after disease after disease, and a detailed prenatal course in two days. I continue to aim high in order to get into a competitive residency program afterwards.

Last, as happy and excited as I may sound, coming to



Virginia meant leaving behind my family, friends and coworkers, I am hungry for some delicious homemade cooking from the greatest chef (my mom)! Wish me luck, and thank you for always being there supporting and cheering me on! Trust me, everything you have done is truly appreciated.

Daniel Valencia-Lopez, student-doctor

VCOM 2019 (I'm the only student with 100% Mexican heritage background in a class of 2019. Proud to be here!)

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## Join the PCF Scholarship Circle!



Scholarship Circle members contribute to all four years of a scholar's education. Membership levels range from \$500 a year up to \$5,000 a year, which covers the annual scholarship and wrap-around programs for a scholar. Each \$5,000 commitment ensures that one more student will have access to the proven results of the PCF Scholar Program. If you are already a loyal donor, consider making a four-year Scholarship Circle pledge and help us serve more qualified high school graduates who are aiming high for college and beyond!

Contact CEO Phillip Powell through email: [phillip@peninsulacollegefund.org](mailto:phillip@peninsulacollegefund.org) or by phone: 650 779-5001. Help us grow to our largest class yet in June 2016!

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## Office Volunteers Needed to Support the PCF Program Team

Pick a time period that fits your schedule



### January – February

Help coordinate reading teams to assess scholarship applications. Track who has attended training and submitted confidentiality agreements. Identify applications with missing information so staff can follow-up with recommenders/counselors/students. Rearrange teams by need/size of applicants by school, expertise, and connection to partner school.

### March - April

Help with logistics for mentor recruitment. Book interviews and rooms. Reach out to mentors to co-facilitate mentor interviews during April. Help with logistics for Scholar/Parent/Mentor Orientation in May. Assemble training materials, book rooms, track RSVP's for orientations, place catering orders.

### **May- June**

Help with logistics for Awards Ceremony. Either support the coordinator for this event, or take lead in coordinating this event. Help staff with invitations, track RSVP's and print name tags, assemble awards for new awardees and graduates, prepare event program, arrange catering and set-up for celebration dinner.

### **July - August**

Help with logistics for College and Career Success Weekend. Copy and assemble materials/handouts/table tents/name tags. Track RSVP's and overnight registration. Book required catering. Help staff coordinate volunteers and serve as event day coordinator. Track actual attendees of event and evaluations.

### **September - October**

Assemble high school class presentation materials including flyers and partner college brochures.

### **November - December**

Help with logistics for Career Success Workshop. Help staff copy and assemble training materials/handouts/table tents/name tags. Track RSVP's and registration. Book required catering. Help staff coordinate volunteers and serve as event day coordinator. Track actual attendees of event and evaluations.

Email Iris Bustos to offer your help! [Iris@peninsulacollegefund.org](mailto:Iris@peninsulacollegefund.org)

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## **PCF at a Glance**

- **Founded in 2005**
- **136 Served since Inception**
- **74 Current Scholars**
- **51 College Graduates**
- **90% College Retention/Graduation Rate**
- **Over 150 active volunteers**



**DONATE NOW**

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](#)

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