



SUCCESS IN COLLEGE, SUCCESS IN LIFE

Happy Spring! We are in the exciting time of the year where we are deep in the process of selecting our newest cohort of 2016 PCF Scholars, and we look forward to celebrating the graduation of our college seniors at our Awards Ceremony on June 16th.

Thanks to a generous grant from Innovate Foundation, we are in the middle of an exciting planning process to take us into the next several years as an organization. We are looking ahead to wrapping up our fiscal year in June, and still need to identify four additional Scholarship Circle donors so we will have pledged support for all 20 new scholars throughout their college years. We are incredibly grateful to those who have already stepped up to make this life-changing investment!

Our scholars are always inspiring us with their exceptional work in college and as graduates. Highlights from three of them are included in this newsletter. In closing, April 11-16 is National Volunteers Week. Thank you to all our wonderful PCF volunteers, including the most recent group of 45 volunteers who have made our 2016 scholar selection process possible.

Warm regards,



Phillip Powell
CEO

Thank you to our 2016 PCF Scholar Selection Teams!

As this newsletter is being written, we are in the final stages of selecting the 2016 class of PCF Scholars. We want to thank the 45 dedicated volunteers who met to carefully consider the applications from over 60 high school graduates who are aspiring to earn a college degree with our support.

"I have been involved with reading applications for PCF for 3 years now and have found it to be an extremely rewarding experience. This year I recruited a group of my friends to read with me, and they were all excited to be involved in the process. It was truly humbling and eye-opening to read the essays of these incredibly hard-working students who achieve so much despite great adversity in their lives. We all felt in awe of their positive attitudes and their drive to create a better life for themselves and their families. It was so hard to eliminate half of the applications from our pool -- we wished we could award scholarships to all who applied."

- Annelise Mora, Reading Captain

From the recommendations of our reading teams, 34 first-generation students from mid-Peninsula schools were selected for in-person interviews during a recent Saturday. These semi-finalists were incredibly grateful and honored to have met with you!

Next, we make the final decisions to choose our new class of 20, the maximum our current funding and staffing allows us to support. Following their selection, they will be matched with a one-on-one mentor during an orientation at the end of May, and they will officially be welcomed into the PCF family of scholars at the annual Awards Ceremony, scheduled for Thursday, June 16 at Sacred Heart School in Atherton. This year's reading team captains are:

Karen Canty
Mark Cator
Joan Cronin
Marisol Gomez

Annelise Mora
Kara Park
Charles Schmuck

Interested in volunteering for this important role in the future? Please contact Iris Bustos, iris@peninsulacollegefund.org

PCF Scholar Spotlight

Niesha Ford Participates in Mayo Clinic Innovative Scholars Program



Congratulations to PCF Scholar Niesha Ford, who recently completed an intensive internship program with the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. Together with four other students from the College of Saint Benedict, Niesha (pictured 2nd from the right in this photo) is a biochemistry major in her junior year. She worked over the course of four months to complete a research project for the Mayo Clinic on “Market Analysis: Engineering Product Development Inside an Academic Research Hospital.” The team was comprised of science and business majors who all contributed their expertise to the practical challenges

involved in bringing an idea to the marketplace.

PCF Scholar Spotlight

Jocelyn Morales Secures a Summer Internship at Morgan Stanley



Jocelyn Morales is a current PCF scholar in her junior year at Notre Dame de Namur University, an important time to secure a career-ladder summer internship. Helping our students with career-readiness and internships is a cornerstone of our comprehensive Scholar Program, and can require intensive one-on-one support. With funding from the Packard Foundation and the Palo Alto Community Fund, we are now able to provide greater support through our internship director, Denise Villamil, hired in October 2014.

Here’s how the process is working for Jocelyn, in her words.

“I really wanted to get a great internship to add to my resume, but the process of finding an internship can be overwhelming. I have been fortunate to get a lot of help through PCF’s internship program. I’ve worked closely with both Denise, and my mentor, Peg. They have guided me on getting an internship that best fits my skills and career focus. They helped with my resume, cover letters and a few important emails. Denise has spent a lot of time preparing me for phone and in-person interviews through mock interviews. I am very proud of the work I have accomplished, and thanks to Denise and Peg, my confidence has definitely blossomed. I’m so grateful. Thank you, PCF!”

We are so pleased that Jocelyn, who is a business major with an interest in pursuing a post graduation position in the financial sector, has secured a summer internship with Morgan Stanley in their Menlo Park

office. Congratulations, Jocelyn, and thanks to Morgan Stanley for your involvement in the success of our PCF scholars!

SVGives Day, Tuesday, May 3rd

silicon valley
gives

May 3, 2016



Mark your calendar to double or possibly even triple your gift to PCF during the third annual day of giving sponsored by the Silicon Valley Community Foundation.

We are pleased to announce a Board Challenge Match of \$10,000 which is good for the entire 24 hours of SVGives Day. Any donation is matched 1:1 to meet this match. We will be sending notices about specific giving times to strategically leverage your donation to qualify for thousands of dollars more.

Join PCF on Facebook for frequent updates during the day!
We look forward to a very successful day with your involvement!

\$10,000!

**Board
Challenge
Match!**



Join our Board in supporting PCF's
AMAZING 1st generation college students!

SVGives.org on Tuesday, May 3rd

Join us on Facebook  #SVGives2PCF

Two PCF Scholars Receive Funding from Westly Foundation



The Westly Foundation is taking a lead in funding scholarships to launch the dreams of local first-generation college students. PCF was selected as one of several local non-profits serving aspiring college-bound youth, allowing us to fund two new scholars in June, 2016. This support is based on a shared mission, as expressed by Steve Westly, "To reach the most underserved youth from the local community and provide an opportunity to change the trajectory of their lives by developing the skills they need to prosper." Special thanks to PCF's former Executive Director, Catherine Crystal Foster, now at the Westly Foundation, for bringing her first-hand knowledge of PCF to their funding decisions!

(Pictured are Westly Foundation co-founders Anita Yu and Steve Westly & Executive Director, Catherine Crystal Foster.)

PCF Alumni Spotlight Fred Carr Middle School Biology Teacher, LAUSD



Our founder, Charles Schmuck, recently paid a visit to the classroom of PCF Alumnus Fred Carr, who is a graduate of Loyola Marymount University and is now a middle school Biology teacher in an inner city Los Angeles charter school. Fred was a member of our third class of nine PCF scholars starting in 2008 after graduating from Eastside College Preparatory High School in East Palo Alto. He earned his degree in Natural Science/Secondary Education in 2012, and has been teaching since then.

Education is where Fred wants to make his long-term contribution. He is looking ahead to a goal of getting his administrative credential and then plans to start work on an Ed.D. program. We are inspired by Fred's work in this underserved Los Angeles community, and know he will continue to make the most of his educational opportunities to help change the lives of future generations.

2nd Annual Young Professionals Happy Hour to Benefit PCF



Thursday, May 12th
The Old Pro, downtown Palo Alto
6:00-7:30 pm

Looking for a fun evening while giving back at the same time? Meet other civic-minded professionals who live or work on the Peninsula, with all ticket sales supporting PCF!

Tickets are \$30
<http://buytickets.at/pcfhappyhour/51081>

A special thank you to our sponsor of this event:

Bingham Osborn & Scarborough



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



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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