

Scholarships



Class of 2024

ABOUT OUR SCHOLARSHIPS

Los Alamos Public Schools Foundation awarded scholarships to six graduating students who have demonstrated service contributions to the students and community of the Los Alamos Public Schools. As part of the award, each student names an Educator of Distinction, someone who has had a positive impact on the student during their time in Los Alamos Public Schools. This year LAPS Foundation awarded one scholarship for a student planning on a career technical path.

One student is also presented with the Rynd Award. The award is made possible by a large bequest left to the LAPS Foundation by Ed and Betty Rynd, a couple with a passion for community service and our schools.

LAPS Foundation also administers several memorial scholarships each year.



Congratulations
Hilltoppers!

Luke Favorite Winner of Rynd Award

Educator of Distinction

Debbie Grothaus

"Mrs. Grothaus is the greatest teacher and mentor that I have had in my entire LAPS career. I'm back to loving STEM and plan to study aerospace engineering. For this, we can blame Mrs. Grothaus. She's amazing at teaching the material and explaining the parts you're still confused about. Her class made me love physics. I was her eager student assistant and physics intern. She is why I'm where I am today, and I am eternally grateful."



College: Purdue University
Major: Aerospace Engineering



John Cawkwell

Educator of Distinction

Debbie Grothaus

"Mrs. Grothaus always made her lectures absorbing and informative. She taught me the importance of having a strong work ethic and commitment to education during a critical time in my life when online schooling made such lessons difficult to teach. She used her own experiences as a lecturer in university as a way of helping me through challenging years of college applications. Her constant commitment to hard work inspires me as I pursue my own college education. All of my achievements, and all of my goals and ambitions are thanks to the help of Mrs. Grothaus."

College: University of California, Berkeley
Major: Physics



Rebecca Li

Educator of Distinction



Christine Engelbrecht

"Ms. Engelbrecht was unlike any other teacher I had encountered in high school. Rather than adhering to a strict curriculum, she encouraged critical thinking through in-depth analysis, pushing her students to address the implicit themes of what we were reading and writing rather than what was obvious. Her guidance, encouragement, and support continue to inspire and motivate me to become a better writer and person than I was yesterday."

College: UCLA
Major: Psychbiology



Samuel Pesiri

Educator of Distinction

Audrey Juliani

"Ms. Juliani showed me how to truly be a person of character. When we started the Caesar's English Unit, I realized my passion for learning such challenging concepts. She pushed me to do the curriculum and more; she was so encouraging with me in the subjects. She gave me a long lecture about the value of honesty. A lot of the words that she said during that conversation still stick with me to this day."

College: University of San Diego
Major: Political Science and Economics

Akshay Swaminarayan

Educator of Distinction

Andrea Weems

"The GATE program at Pinon Elementary was unforgettable. I learned everything from solving complex puzzles to deciphering literary works. Ms. Weems taught in an engaging way that I had not been introduced to. Beyond academics, her classroom was a place where I felt secure and safe. As I cross the bridge from high school to college, I intend to make her proud in my pursuit of higher education."



College: University of Arizona
Majors: Biochemistry

Praveen Swaminarayan

Educator of Distinction

Nikol Strother

"Ms. Strother's dedication and passion towards teaching math led me to love math the way I do today. Her personality motivated me to do the best that I could do in her class. I know that her classroom is a space where I will always feel safe and welcomed. Ms. Strother significantly improved my high school experience and for that I will always be thankful for having her as my teacher."



College: University of California, Irvine
Majors: Civil Engineering

Chad Kuzmack

Educator of Distinction

Michelle Bane

"Ms. Bane went above and beyond helping me in the educational environment by supporting me outside of school. Ms. Bane saw that I had potential to succeed and worked with me to better manage my situations. She helped guide me through unique challenges. I would not be the person I am without my educator of distinction."



College: Central New Mexico Community College
Major: Welding

Larry Baca Memorial Scholarship

Anna Wetteland

The scholarship is named for Larry Baca, a renowned coach in Los Alamos for 30 years and member of the Los Alamos High School Hall of Fame and New Mexico Coaches Hall of Fame. He was a tremendous athlete at LAHS participating in baseball, basketball, wrestling, football and track. A role model to youth in our community, Baca's humility, determination and sportsmanship enabled his track teams to achieve numerous district and state track titles.

Grafton Urbatsch



Sophia Feldman Memorial Scholarship



Rebecca Li
Sasha Carr
Akshay Swaminarayan
Eibhleann Hinrichs



This scholarship is awarded in the memory of Sophia Feldman, an LAHS sophomore who passed away in September 2019.

Sophia had many interests, including dance, music, and speech/debate, but one of her greatest passions was helping and supporting people. The award is selected based on exemplary academic and personal conduct combined with mentoring/support of younger students.

June and Harry Ettinger Memorial Scholarship

Maya Carpenter



The Ettinger scholarship honors a graduating student who loves books. Applicants are asked to write a personal narrative concerning an age-appropriate book that was not required for school and that has not been translated into a visual medium. The narrative demonstrates the ways the book added to the student's understanding of the human condition or had enhanced their life. Maya wrote an essay about the book *Wild Bird* by Wendelin Van Draanen.

Kristin Kosiewicz Substance Abuse Awareness Scholarship



The Kosiewicz Scholarship is awarded annually in memory of Kristin Kosiewicz, a 1993 graduate of Los Alamos High School who passed away on September 26, 2021 from an accidental fentanyl overdose. Kristin was an exceptional athlete, a talented artist, and a confident and adventurous world traveler. Kristin enjoyed all things nature and loved to explore the outdoors. This scholarship is awarded annually to one or two graduating LAHS seniors to increase awareness of substance abuse.

Arianne Terrones

Akshay Swaminarayan

Layton Laeser

Rebecca Li

Irene Boone Memorial Scholarship



The Boone scholarship is awarded to students pursuing a two or four-year degree at a college, university or technical-vocational program. It is made possible through the generosity of long-time resident and pediatrician, Dr. Irene Boone and her husband, Zanas “Slim” Boone.

Marissa Meierdierks

Ross and Lola Ramsey Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship is in memory of Ross and Lola Ramsey who worked as a team to manage the Civic Auditorium, now the Duane Smith Auditorium, for over a quarter of a century. From 1951 to 1974, the Ramseys created and directed the renowned Olions theater program and helped students find and develop their potential as they acted in and produced plays, musicals and Topper Revue. A group of alumni students of the Ramseys organized an effort in 2022-23 to celebrate the Ramseys' contributions, name the stage at Duane Smith Auditorium in memory of them and create a scholarship honoring them. This is the second year for the scholarship to be awarded and two recipients were selected in 2024.



Sasha Carr

Jamie Meana



