



# Kennedy-King

*Memorial College Scholarship Fund, Ltd.*

*Investing in our  
youth for a  
better tomorrow.*

**Founding Board Members (1968):** Louis Bernstein • James Boman • Frank Bryant • Arthur Caines • Arthur Carter • Lawrence Crouchett • Harley Hull • Tim Lynch, Jr. • Edmund Regalia • Robert Schroder • Fortney (Pete) Stark



## Kennedy-King Memorial College Scholarship Fund 2021 Update

Kennedy-King was created 54-years ago as a living memorial to the social justice dreams of Dr. Martin Luther King and Senator Robert F. Kennedy. We are heartbroken and disturbed by the recent instances of violence against people of color, cases that follow a long history of racial injustice in the United States. The Scholarship Fund seeks to find racial, social, and economic justice through education. We believe education enables access to opportunities, more equitable wealth distribution, and promotes social justice.

Our mission is to provide scholarships to underrepresented minority community college students, principally those that identify as socially, economically, or educationally disadvantaged. Underrepresented minorities are determined using data from the California College and University systems. We draw our scholars from the three Contra Costa community colleges so that they can transfer to a four-year institution and complete their education. The exceptional vision of the Founding Members has been recognized by the Contra Costa community through their sustaining and increasing support of Kennedy-King. We also support former scholars pursuing their graduate degree and award grants to current Contra Costa County community college students facing extreme hardships.

In 2021 Kennedy-King awarded an additional 41 undergraduate and graduate scholarships to scholars from Contra Costa College, Diablo Valley College, and Los Medanos College. Our scholarships have been awarded to 921 recipients. Almost \$5.8 million have been awarded to-date. Seven former scholarship recipients have served on the Kennedy-King Board of Directors, four of whom are serving at the present time. We look forward to a future in which the Board is predominantly comprised of former scholarship recipients. **We thank our donors** as these accomplishments would not have been possible without your generosity and continuing support.



### BE A HERO TODAY

Our mission has been to offer scholarship opportunities for outstanding but underrepresented minority students in the Contra Costa College system who are transferring to a four-year college or university. An example of one worthy scholar is Fernanda Lopez, a 2010 Kennedy-King Scholarship recipient from Los Medanos College. She was always driven and did very well in school. She dreamed of attending San Jose State to study Broadcast Journalism. Receiving a scholarship from Kennedy-King made her dreams possible, graduating from San Jose State in 2012. After working in broadcast journalism for a number of years, she is now a Public Relations Manager for an animal nonprofit in San Diego.

**Be a Hero** to students like Fernanda and help us build our endowment so we can continue to support students who just need someone to believe in them and provide the financial support they need.

### Major Donors to Kennedy-King include

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### DONATE NOW!

*Mail your donation to  
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P.O. Box 2643  
Martinez, CA 94553*  
  
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[www.kennedyking.org](http://www.kennedyking.org)*

# Meet our Kennedy-King Scholars

Meet more Kennedy-King Scholars at [www.kennedyking.org](http://www.kennedyking.org).

## THYRA COBBS



A first-generation student at Los Medanos College, Thyra has been conducting research on the impact of culturally empowering courses on the mental and academic well-being of African-American students. She has been a part of Umoja, Honors and EOPS, and served as the President of the Los Medanos College Associated Students.

**Thyra Cobbs** was a Diablo Valley and Los Medanos College student who has transferred to UCLA to pursue her degree in English. Her long-term goal is to obtain a Ph.D in English, and to become a literature professor. She would also like to own and operate an editing business one day.

## GENEVIEVE KAPLAN



Genevieve is an indigenous person proud to be part of the Apache, Creek, and Yaqui Nations. She proudly retains her heritage by participating in native community events and volunteer activities. Her adoptive family was Jewish, so she had a unique background and perspective on life. The principal of Tikkun Olam-repair the world-became the governing principal for her interests.

**Genevieve Kaplan** combined her unique background with her interest in helping people to structure her academic pursuits. Her success at Diablo Valley College has given her the opportunity to pursue a Political Science/Public Policy degree at the University of California. Her long-term goal is to become a policymaker, or a lawyer to provide a public voice to the indigenous community.

## IRVING ROSALES GONZALEZ

After overcoming immigration struggles and family challenges Irving was able to rebuild his life with a central goal—to use his preference for science to improve as many lives as possible. “I will change the world through biochemical engineering for pharmaceutical development and biofuel innovations.”

**Irving Rosales Gonzalez** found it difficult to find meaningful employment after his early struggles. Using his entrepreneurial skills, he started his own business—New Glory Painting. This allowed Irving to provide for his family and return to school at Los Medanos College. He has transferred to UC Davis to pursue a biochemical engineering degree. His aspirational goal is a Ph.D. so he could pioneer environmental-friendly biofuel alternatives that address climate change imperatives.



## MONICA HICKS

“Reading about the field of Computer Science in a newspaper article so inspired me I returned to my education.” Monica returned to school after successfully addressing addiction issues. Her success was so complete that she was asked to travel to hospital and treatment centers to speak to others seeking recovery.



**Monica Hicks** pursued her Computer Science interests at Diablo Valley College. She will be matriculating to Stanford University to pursue her degree. Her long term goal is to be a project manager at a tech company where she can couple her soft-skills with technical prowess to lead a team of bright and talented individuals from underrepresented backgrounds.

# Meet More Current Scholars

Meet more Kennedy-King Scholars at [www.kennedyking.org](http://www.kennedyking.org).

## JONATHAN TORRES SAMAYOA



A first-generation college student, Jonathan attended Contra Costa College and majored in Electrical Engineering. Jonathan grew up in Richmond. He lost friends to gun violence. "I don't want to be another statistic to the system. I am going to breakdown these social barriers of what a Latino male in the STEM field should look like."

**Jonathan Torres Samayoa** has transferred to San Francisco State University where he is pursuing his Electrical engineering degree. With the help of his village, the whole community that supported him, he will make it.

## BRIAN WANENE



A family man with a wife and three children, Brian has set a goal to become a screenwriter/director, and to one-day have his own production company. His larger goal is to help diversify the film industry. He has transferred to San Francisco State University to pursue these goals.

**Brian Wanene**, according to one of his references, is a man that has overcome many challenges which "has added to his strength, understanding, trustworthiness, and compassion." His volunteer activities include organizing the activities of his daughters Girl Scout Troop. He is described as "the Dad who always shows up." No greater testament to commitment exists.

## TAMARA SCHROEDER

Graduate Scholar

Upon graduating from Contra Costa College Tamara transferred to the University of California-Davis where she received a Bachelor of Science in biotechnology. Upon graduation she affiliated with Children's Hospital in Oakland working with an infectious disease physician. Her role led to studies of infectious diseases in rural communities in Kenya. In 2020 she enrolled at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine. She expects to receive her MD in 2024. She plans to do a rotation in emergency medicine at Highland Hospital in Oakland to gain good experience with providing urgent/trauma care to underserved communities. Upon graduation, her plan is to do a residency in urban and community medicine at the UC Davis Medical Center in Sacramento. Her ultimate goal is serve the central valley of California, which is vastly underserved in urban and community health services.



## LAVANTA GREEN

Graduate Scholar

A transfer student from Los Medanos College, LaVanta received her Bachelor degree in Psychology from California State University-East Bay (CSU-EB). She is committed and determined to become a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. She has been accepted into the Master's Program in Community Mental Health at CSU-EB. LaVanta wrote in her application that "I take no opportunity for granted. I will become a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. My community needs me and my talents, commitments, and life experiences to help shift the underserved into overcomers like myself."



# Kennedy King Alumni: A History of Great Outcomes

Studies have shown that persistence, energy, discipline and focus correlate to success.  
The Kennedy-King alumni featured are testament to these characteristics  
and also have a strong commitment to community.

## CHRISTOPHER MACALPINE-BELTON



- Christopher is a multilingual, intellectual planner and strategist with a knack for turning ideas into effective action in both domestic and international contexts.
- Kennedy-King Scholarship recipient in 2007 from Contra Costa College;
- Bachelor's degree from Clark University in 2009 with a major in Geography and International Development & Social Change;
- Master's Degree from Stony Brook University in 2011 with a major in Public Policy;
- Worked abroad as a Peace Corp Volunteer in the Dominican Republic as a Primary Literacy Specialist;
- Currently the Director of Intergovernmental Affairs for the New York City Mayor's Office Public Engagement Unit where he proactively connects New Yorkers to key City services including long-term case management to help tenants stay in their homes, enroll for or renew health insurance coverage, and more.

## DANIEL PONCE



*"The Kennedy-King Scholarship confirmed to me that I was on the right path to achieve the goals that I once saw as a distant dream. But I would not have been able to graduate from college without the scholarship. I will always be grateful for the scholarship, and the amazing people who volunteer their time and resources to make dreams come true."*

— Daniel Ponce

- A 2007 Kennedy-King Scholarship recipient;
- Graduated from CSU – East Bay in 2009 with a major in Business Administration/Management in 2009;
- Initial career path was with the City of Richmond's Office of Economic Development;
- Received a "Merritt Capital Scholarship" which provided an opportunity to do a paid internship opportunity with Eden Housing, Inc., a nonprofit affordable housing development firm;
- Transitioned to a property manager position with Eden in 2010;
- In 2017 Daniel became a Property Supervisor for Satellite Affordable Housing Associates (SAHA), where he oversees the management of over 600 affordable housing apartment units in the Bay Area;
- In 2018 Daniel became a Regional Property Director for SAHA;
- Daniel was recently appointed to the Kennedy-King Board of Directors;
- Daniel has also maintained his relationships locally:
  - Has served as a mentor for the Puente Project at Contra Costa College since 2010, where he has counseled students on the verge of transferring to a four year university;
  - He has also served as a mentor to Richmond High School students to help them prepare to attend college upon graduation;
  - "My current position is a perfect combination of a career in business, and in a position where I can help my community."

# More Alumni: A History of Great Outcomes

## DANIELLA POY-WING



*"To this day I thank the Independent Living Skills Program (ILSP), a program for pushing me to attain goals I didn't know I could attain. Clearly they knew where I was going to be."*

— Daniella Poy-Wing

- A 2005 Kennedy-King Scholarship Recipient from Contra Costa College, Daniella Poy-Wing has embraced her past as a framework for her activities;
- Daniella is a former foster youth who has volunteered in the past with organizations serving foster children. She benefited from her ILSP experience;
- Daniella received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Bachelor's in Liberal Arts in a joint degree program at St. Mary's College and Samuel Merritt University in 2008;
- As a Registered Nurse, her career has included:
  - Kaiser Oakland and Kaiser Vallejo Med – Telemetry
  - Aesthetics/Cosmetics nurse
  - 9+ Years with Contra Costa Health Services including:
    - Public Health Nurse with Healthcare for the Homeless;
    - Received the Contra Costa County Health Services, Service Excellence Award "For helping a homeless patient reconnect to insurance and primary care resulting in the patient obtaining housing and receiving dialysis three times per week".
  - Deployed during the pandemic as a Nursing Program Manager of the COVID-19 Mobile Outbreak and Vaccination Teams
  - Daniella has recently been appointed as a Nursing Program Manager for Clinics Services for Occupational Health, Pediatrics, Sexual Health, and Women's Health. Adapting to a role as a Supervisor in the midst of a global pandemic has been a challenge. We are confident Daniella will be up to the challenge!

## DONTE BLUE



*"The Kennedy-King scholarship was instrumental in my getting through my undergraduate career without incurring significant debt."*

— Donte Blue

- A Kennedy-King Scholarship Recipient in 2006 from Contra Costa College;
- Graduated from the University of California with a degree in African-American Studies in 2008;
- Matriculated to UCLA Law School where he received his J.D. in 2012;
- His law school experience led to an interest in mass incarceration issues;
- Post law-school he worked in San Francisco and Richmond (Bay Area Legal Aid) on mass incarceration issues;
- In 2016 Donte accepted a position as Deputy Director of the Contra Costa County Office of Reentry and Justice where he was instrumental in establishing employment and workforce development partnerships with community organizations;
- Donte recently assumed the position of Chief Program Officer for Rubicon Programs, a community-based nonprofit that provides employment services throughout Contra Costa County. Among Rubicon's activities is the Reentry Success Center which Donte and the County's Workforce Development Board were partners in establishing during his tenure with the County

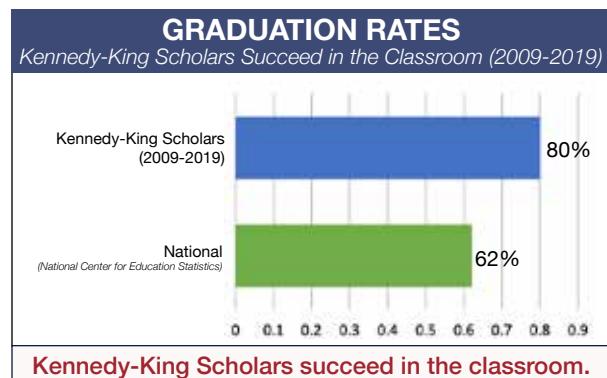
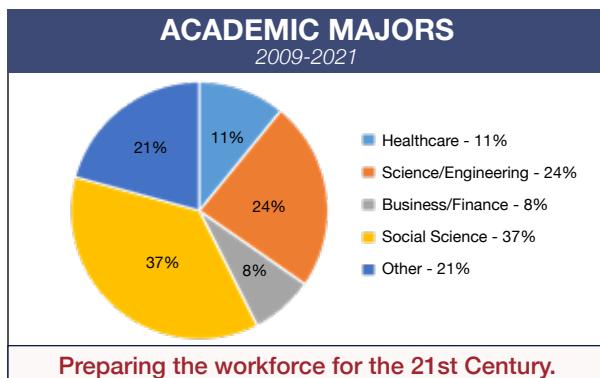
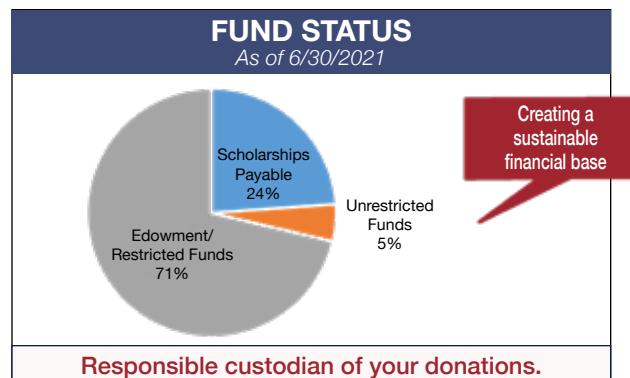
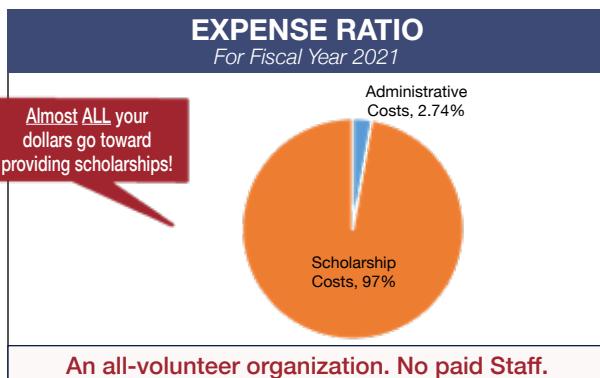


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INVESTING IN OUR YOUTH FOR A BETTER TOMORROW.

## Kennedy-King College Scholarship Fund A Model of Financial Efficiency & Positive Outcomes

Thanks to our generous donors and volunteers!



**Happy New Year!**

From the Board of the  
Kennedy-King Memorial Scholarship Fund

**Wishing you and your family a  
safe and healthy 2022!**

