

Scholarship Program

2020



Lake Washington PTSA Council Scholarship Program

- Open to all graduating seniors and certificated staff of Lake Washington School District high schools.
- Two \$500 staff scholarships and thirteen \$1250 student scholarships for a total of \$17,250.
- Judging panels are made up of teams across all Learning Communities in the district.
- Our 18 judges read and scored 106 scholarship applications.
- Scholarship funds are provided by:
 - Annual donations from the 44 PTAs in LWSD
 - Council's annual Basket Auction
 - Private donors, like the Lake Washington Education Association
- We are honored to be a small part of this tremendous milestone in the lives of these exceptional students and we wish them all the very best.



2020 Scholarship Winners!

Eastlake LC Merit Scholarship:

Kaley Birchfield (EHS)

Daniel Gaughran (EHS)

Juanita LC Merit Scholarship:

Allison Lofquist (JHS)

Annalisa Mueller-Eberstein (ICS)*

Lake Washington LC Merit Scholarship:

Jen Estes (LWHS)

Megan Wong (Cambridge)*

Redmond LC Merit Scholarship:

Arpit Ranasaria (RHS)

Tina Wen (STEM)*

L.E. Scarr Scholarship:

Eric Michael McNeill Hiller (Emerson)

LWEA/Teeley Scholarship:

Julia Raffel (EHS)

Perseverance Scholarship:

Thomas Sefair-Lopez (EHS)

Turnaround Scholarship:

Santiago Quiroga Medina (RHS)

At Large Scholarship: Grace Zackula (JHS)

Staff: Victoria Vacknitz (Rush) and

Crystal Visperas (EHS)

* Learning Community is based on home address

Staff Scholarship Recipient Victoria Vacknitz

- Student of LWSD from K-12
- Graduate from Western Washington University with a Teaching degree
- First year teacher at the Benjamin Rush Elementary School
- Ms. Vacknitz is passionate in integrating technology skills and resources into classroom learning
- Accepted into Master's Program for Learning and Technology at Western Governor's University



Staff Scholarship Recipient Crystal Visperas

- Graduate from the University of Texas at Austin.
- Self-proclaimed learner, dedicated teacher going on her 14th year.
- Teacher at the Eastlake High School
- Ms. Visperas is accepted into a Master's Program for Curriculum and Instruction.
- She is passionate in continuing her teaching career through the lens of social justice and equity.



Daniel Gaughran

- Student of Eastlake High School, winner of Eastlake LC Merit Scholarship.
- He will be attending Stanford University and intends to study Management Science & Engineering and Chicana/o studies.
- Daniel has served as the executive treasurer for Centro Cultural Mexicano-Nonprofit cultural center located in Redmond WA, amongst other Community services.
- He has actively worked on empowering communities through art and culture.
- Daniel's favorite high school memories are times spent talking to members of the community about life changing books.



Kaley Birchfield

- Student of Eastlake High School, winner of Eastlake LC Merit Scholarship.
- Kaley plans to attend Baylor University.
- Outside academic excellence, Kaley pursued other activities like swimming, diving and playing in various orchestral groups.
- She considers herself to be really blessed to have a supportive church family, friends, family and wonderful teachers.



Allison Lofquist

- Student of Juanita High School, winner of Juanita LC Merit Scholarship.
- Allison plans to attend Boston University to study Human Physiology and will compete on the BU track team.
- Allison's favorite class was STEM, and she loves attending football games and other sporting events with friends.
- As a member of ASB, she enjoys planning multiple school activities. She also volunteers in the Juanita community and beyond and finds this experience to be really rewarding.



Annalisa Mueller-Eberstein

- Student of ICS, winner of Juanita LC Merit Scholarship.
- She will be attending University of Washington to study both Materials Science Engineering and International affairs.
- Some of Annalisa's favorite high school memories include creating silver ornaments in Chemistry, interacting with teachers and fellow students, running through hotel hallways while preparing for the opening ceremony of an MUN conference and planning, organizing and attending various ASB events.



Jen Estes

- Student of Lake Washington High School, winner of Lake Washington LC Merit Scholarship.
- She will be attending Princeton University, excited to continue her academics and play soccer.
- Jen played soccer and basketball throughout high school and participated in many school clubs and activities such as Honor society, Loyalty club and many others.
- Jen took rigorous courses in high school and enjoyed the balance of academics and sports.



Megan Wong

- Student of Juanita High School (Cambridge program), winner of Lake Washington LC Merit Scholarship.
- She will be studying Chemical Engineering at University of Washington.
- Megan earned the Cambridge Scholar Award with Distinction for her exam scores and got the highest mark in USA for Cambridge IGCSE Physics.
- Megan aspires to develop medical processes or procedures that would help people worldwide.



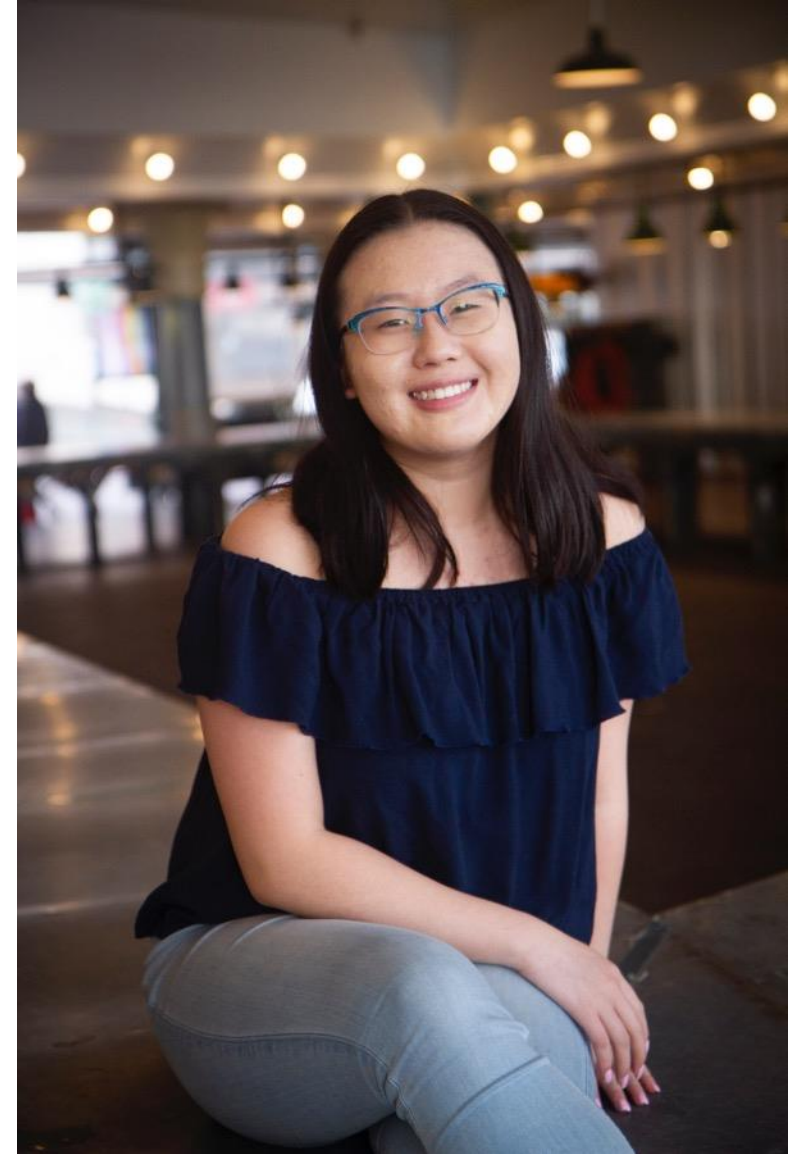
Arpit Ranasaria

- Student of Redmond High School, winner of Redmond LC Merit Scholarship.
- He will be attending Stanford University to study Earth Systems and Computer Science.
- Arpit hopes to develop better climate models and fight climate change, while also teaching Science to passionate middle schoolers.
- He has enjoyed banging out melodies at Pep band football games and organizing Math and Science tournaments.
- Outside of school, he likes to spend his time working on his nonprofit, Science Infinity, playing board games, and playing ultimate frisbee.



Tina Wen

- Student of Tesla STEM, winner of Redmond LC Merit Scholarship.
- Tina plans on attending Rice University to study computer science and economics.
- Tina earned a varsity letter each of her 4 years on the RHS Varsity swim team.
- She won a National Honorable Mention award from NCWIT for her research on improving color quality in photographs to increase accessibility for people with color vision deficiency.
- She is also a National Merit Commended Scholar and an AP Scholar with Distinction.



Eric Michael McNeill Hiller

- Student of Emerson High School, winner of the L.E. Scarr Scholarship.
- Eric will be attending Lake Washington Vocational Technical Institute to study Automotive Repair.
- Eric felt his teachers at Emerson really helped him to get excited about learning and to pursue his education. He enjoyed his last couple years at Emerson.



Julia Raffel

- Student of Eastlake High School, winner of LWEA/Teeley Scholarship.
- Julia plans to attend Arizona State University studying Elementary Education.
- Throughout her time at EHS, she played on the Eastlake volleyball team as well as a club team.
- Julia was involved in Senate, JOG, Relay for Life, and the leadership program.
- She was also awarded Student Athlete awards, Academic Excellence awards, Leader of the Pack, and the Presidents Volunteer Service award



Thomas Sefair-Lopez

- Student of Eastlake High School, winner of "Perseverance Scholarship".
- Thomas will be majoring in international business administration and minoring in diversity at the University of Washington.
- He has had the opportunity to be part of different clubs/programs such as the Eastlake Wind Ensemble, Latinos Unidos, the Equity Student Advisory Board, and more.
- Thomas loved the service components in the programs he attended, such as organizing enrichment activities for students to learn more about the LatinX community and culture.



Santiago Quiroga Medina

- Student of Redmond High School, winner of "Turnaround Scholarship".
- He plans to pursue a Bachelors in Communication (journalism) at the Seattle Pacific University
- Santiago feels he has learned so much at high school and that it has been an incredible journey.
- He is passionate to study communications to help others learn about themselves.



Grace Zackula

- Student of Juanita High School, winner of the "At Large Scholarship".
- Grace will continue her education at the University of Washington to study public health.
- She has been part of the swim & dive team, gymnastics team and was a member of band.
- Grace has also enjoyed participating in the STEM program and attending the HOSA State Leadership Conference this year.



We thank the following for supporting this effort:

- All 44 local PTSAs who every year contribute to the Scholarship Program with donations and gift baskets for the fall Basket Auction.
- The high school college and career specialists and counselors who encouraged students to apply and who continue to be a helpful resource to us.
- This year's Basket Auction Chairs, Melissa Stone and Colette Ulloa.
- The Lake Washington Education Association for their generous donation to this program.
- The LWSD for their continued support of this annual event.

2020 Judges

Scholarship judging is done by 8 panels with 3 judges on each panel, representing the various Learning Communities in our district. Many thanks to this year's judges!

Panel Leads

Elena Sellers

Beth Knapick

Melissa Stone

Yumna Green

Nikki Balt

Jay Pulacode

Panel Members

Terri Gatts

Tara Hempstead

Dawn Kreysar

Mary Pat O-Neil

Veeramani Pulacode

Reva Ramachandran

Trina Ring

Michelle Rocamora

Sarah Rock

Jorge Santos

Andrea Stoppani

Margo Wei

2020 Scholarship Committee Co-Chairs: Jay Pulacode, Andrea Stoppani
and Reva Ramachandran