WEST COAST
chapter spotlight 2017

Omni La Costa Resort | Carlsbad, CA
April 9, 2017

2017 New Scholars: 78

2017 Recognized Scholars: 56

Cumulative California/West Coast Scholars: 407 (252 California)

Highlights: Mark Victor Hansen, co-founder and author of the *Chicken Soup for the Soul* series, delivered an inspiring and motivational address to scholars about accomplishing goals and achieving success. Friends of Eleni and Wolfgang Gagon were in attendance and took the stage to make a special announcement about a generous gift from the Gagon's to benefit the Carson Scholars Fund and students in California. Attendees were delighted by a piano performance by 3-time Carson Scholar Channing Lee.

$181,101.76* have been paid out to colleges on behalf of the scholars who won their awards in the California/West Coast area.
**As of fiscal year 2017*

Brady Kurtz
2017 Carson Scholar
Learning Choice Academy
San Diego, CA

Brady is co-founder of the Kids Cleanup Club where he and his team members clean up trash at local parks, shopping centers and beaches. He participates in community service activities through a faith-based scouting organization similar to Boy Scouts, known as Trail Life. As a member of Trail Life, Brady donates Christmas trees, assembles hygiene items for the homeless, and sends cards to veterans on Veteran's Day. Athletically, Brady has received recognition for running over 100 miles in his Cardio Club at school and enjoys biking and playing football and dodgeball. In his free time, Brady focuses his energy on designing and building things.

Jennifer enjoys being a dedicated member of the Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA). HOSA is an organization that focuses on teaching students leadership development while helping them pursue careers in health care. Through HOSA, Jennifer participates in health awareness events and promotes mental health and wellness throughout her community. Jennifer has also volunteered her time picking up trash at the beach, tutoring elementary school students and collecting canned goods for food drives as a member of the California Scholarship Federation. She enjoys running, hiking, traveling and serving as a group leader at her church.

Jennifer Herrera
2017 Carson Scholar
Academy of Medical Arts at Carson High
Carson, CA

Ezekiel Zaruba
4-time Carson Scholar
Alta Loma Christian School
Alta Loma, CA

Ezekiel stays busy in and out of school through a variety of hobbies and interests. He created the Middle School Bulletin and Advice Column at his school to keep students updated about upcoming events and serves on the dance committee to plan the annual school dance. Ezekiel has an immense passion for playing the piano and recently started writing his own music. He views writing and playing piano as a way for people to interpret the world as their own. As an active member of his church community, Ezekiel plays piano for the One28 Junior and Senior High Worship Team. He has been interested in learning about human anatomy for as long as he can remember and hopes to become a pediatrician.

"She now believes that, with perserverance and hardwork, she can accomplish her goals. Thank you for allowing this to happen."
Gerardo Rojas, parent of scholar Elizabeth Rojas