

WEST COAST chapter spotlight 2018



Omni La Costa Resort | Carlsbad, CA
May 6, 2018



2018 New Scholars: **175**

2018 Recognized Scholars: **58**

Cumulative California/West Coast Scholars: **(580, 411 California)**

Highlights: 148 of the 175 new Carson Scholars on the West Coast were awarded on behalf of the Gagon Trust, the largest sponsorship by any one donor in a single year. 2018 Carson Scholar Emily Davila delivered a powerful vocal performance of the National Anthem and Chas Hurst, also a 2018 scholar, graced the audience with a chilling solo saxophone performance. The Spirit of Achievement Award was presented to Eric King, a former NFL player who currently runs his own foundation for young student-athletes. Past honoree Dr. Tony Nobles helped to present the Power of Excellence Award to Dorothy Blyskal, a Hollywood screenwriter who reminded scholars that while your life may not always go as planned, your perseverance should never waiver.

\$334,380.76* has been paid out to colleges on behalf of the scholars who won their awards in the California/West Coast area.

**As of fiscal year 2018*



Commitment in California/West Coast



Vanessa Abreu

2018 Carson Scholar
Crown Point Elementary
San Diego, CA

As president of her school's Associated Student Body, Vanessa is responsible for organizing school-wide events. She spearheads fundraisers for school improvement projects and donation drives for charities like the World Wildlife Federation and St. Jude's Children's Hospital. Vanessa was also an integral part of starting her school's recycling program. She is an involved member of her Girl Scout troop and enjoys volunteering in her community by collecting donations for the homeless and supplies for deployed troops. In her spare time, Vanessa enjoys playing chess, participating on the swim team, drawing, and reading.

Chas, an accomplished alto saxophonist, is the youngest member of the College of the Canyons jazz band and symphony, where he has had the opportunity to work with various professional musicians and holds leadership roles in his ensembles. At school, Chas is a yearbook editor, student tutor, and a member of the National Honor Society. Chas also serves as a high school recruiter for ZOE International, an organization focused on rescuing women and children from human trafficking in Southeast Asia and educating the public. With a passion for helping others, it comes as no surprise that Chas hopes to one day work with Doctors Without Borders as a pediatric cardiothoracic surgeon.



Chas Hurst

2018 Carson Scholar
Academy of the Canyons
Santa Clarita, CA



Channing Lee

4-time Carson Scholar
Cornelia Connelly School
Anaheim, CA

Channing is an accomplished pianist who has performed twice at Carnegie Hall and is the Soprano II section leader for the Advanced Women's Ensemble at school. In addition to receiving multiple musical awards, Channing is a decorated Mock Trial participant and a member of her school's volleyball team and Campus Ministry. She was nominated by her school to attend the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Seminar where aspiring young leaders converge to develop leadership skills. As a chapter founder of Girl Talk, a national non-profit in which high school girls mentor middle school girls, Channing helps young girls to prepare for high school. In her spare time, she judges middle school debate tournaments, acts, draws, and paints.

"She now believes that, with perseverance and hardwork, she can accomplish her goals. Thank you for allowing this to happen."

Gerardo Rojas, parent of scholar Elizabeth Rojas

Impact of the Carson Scholars Fund, Inc.