

# Community Report



SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS



### Vision Statement

The Columbia College Foundation promotes quality higher education that enriches the academic, economic, and cultural life of our community.

### Mission Statement

Our mission is to promote student success by providing community resources that support and expand educational opportunities for Columbia College's students.

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## From the Foundation President



THANK YOU for your interest in the Columbia College Foundation. For over 40 years, the partnership between the Foundation and its donors has remained true to the vision of creating quality higher education that enriches the academic, economic, and cultural life of our community.

As we increase our activities, we're seeing the results. Foundation assets topped \$1 million for the first time last year. We welcomed five new board members, launched a community lecture series and worked with community partners to award more than \$94,000 in direct support through scholarships, awards, campus mini grants and equipment purchases. Columbia College is such a cornerstone in this community. Your involvement and your donations will help us keep the momentum going for student success.

—Stephanie Suess, Foundation President

## Remembering our founding President

COLUMBIA COLLEGE and the Columbia College Foundation both owe their start to the vision and commitment of the late Dr. Harvey “Dusty” Rhodes. The college’s founder and first president passed away in August at the age of 96.

Not many individuals have had such a positive, far-reaching impact on their community, said his colleague and close friend Paul Becker. “He didn’t just build a college,” said Becker, who worked with Dr. Rhodes as Columbia’s first Dean of Students. “He brought all that a college brings—art, music, intellectual activities.”

At the time, starting a campus in such a remote, rural area was rare, yet Dr. Rhodes knew what it would take—a true partnership with the community. He gathered input regularly and listened with care. That’s why one of their first projects when Becker arrived was to form the Columbia College Foundation. They launched it in 1972 with a broad-based community board and a vision to support the needs of the college. The fledgling foundation started raising money for scholarships and equipment, then went on to launch an ambitious campaign to raise \$450,000 for the future Oak Pavilion.

Throughout those projects, Dr. Rhodes kept students as his top priority. A sign over his door made that clear, Becker recalled. It read “Students may interrupt at any time. Visitors will understand.”



Dr. Harvey “Dusty” Rhodes



Pat Dean

## A remarkable life: Pat Dean (1935-2014)

EDUCATION WAS a life passion for Pat Dean. As a nurse, teacher and community leader, she was an especially effective advocate for Columbia College. She served nearly 10 years on the Foundation board and was a trustee for the Yosemite Community College District for seven years.

As a parent who returned to school when her children were young, Pat Dean had a special interest in promoting and supporting scholarships, especially those for girls entering nursing and women returning to school. “We’ve lost a remarkable woman,” said her friend and Foundation Vice President Colette Such. “We will miss her energy, her dedication and her leadership.”



## Emily Lang is paying it forward

IT'S BEEN THREE YEARS since Emily Lang put the past behind her and remade her life. As a single mother with four children, she wanted to do better for her family than what she described as a dead-end job and a crippling pattern of bad choices and bad breaks. She was determined to show her children what it means to commit to a goal and keep persisting.

From the day she walked onto the Columbia College campus, Emily discovered how many people want to help her family make that journey. Supportive teachers and counselors, community groups and donors have provided steady encouragement. In April 2014, Lang received scholarships from the Osher Foundation, the Molly Cunningham family, and P.E.O. Sisterhood, Chapter T.P.

**"It's a great honor to know people would give just to help someone like me, who's trying to help themselves... scholarships mean I can make it a few more months toward my goal."**—Scholarship recipient **Emily Lang**

"Those awards have really kept me going," she said. "I want donors to know this will get paid forward in our community."



Mother and daughter Emily Lang and Lauren Evers enjoy time together before class.

Today, Lang is just months away from graduating with an associate's degree in communication, and comes to school every day with her oldest daughter, Lauren Evers, a Columbia freshman.

"She's such a good kid," Lang said, "and I think she might be a way better student than I am!"

Her mom showed her how.

"I knew I would love it here," Lauren said. "Seeing my mom do so well here gives me more confidence that I can succeed."

## Don Schaffner Scholarship: a new family tradition



Making a connection: the Schaffner family with their scholarship recipient, student Edwin Bobrycki.

SHERYL SCHAFFNER remembers clearly how encouraging it was for her to get a modest scholarship when she was a student at Columbia College 25 years ago. Now an environmental law attorney in Sunnyvale, she was the first person in her family to go to college. "I feel like I owe everything to Columbia College," she said. "It gave me that foot in the door."

So when her father, Don Schaffner, passed

away a little over a year ago, she thought establishing a scholarship at Columbia would be the perfect way to honor his memory. Sheryl worked with the Foundation staff to complete some simple paperwork and designed criteria for the new award. Family and friends contributed small amounts that added up to enough to assure that the scholarship can be awarded for at least five years, and Sheryl plans to continue to donate as well. She helped review applicants, and especially enjoyed attending the April scholarship celebration to meet the first recipient, Edwin Bobrycki.

"That was a delightful opportunity to get to meet the person in whose future you're investing and to see what a nice man he is," Sheryl said. "We all immediately connected and it made us feel even better about setting up the scholarship. I absolutely know my dad is proud of what we did."

**"I want people to know this is so easy to do and it doesn't take a lot of money. It's something you can do with small donations and it adds up fast."**—Scholarship donor **Sheryl Schaffner**

## Campus mini grants boost student success



Fire Academy students prepare for a one-minute drill with turnout gear as part of their intensive four-month training program.

DEBATE CAMP, automotive test fees, volleyball equipment, cameras for telescopes and a choir trip were among the projects funded by the Columbia College Foundation's campus mini grant program in the 2014 school year.

Seventeen grants were awarded this year, totaling \$21,500 in support for projects benefitting students in all corners of the campus. Now in its third year, the mini grant program was launched by a gift from the Wise Family Charitable Trust and continues to go strong. Faculty, staff and students submit requests twice a year for projects they want most for the campus.

"It's rewarding to see what a difference small grants can make to students' experiences here at Columbia," said board member Mike Heuton, who chairs

the mini grant committee.

Fire instructor Shane Warner used mini grants to help upgrade fire academy equipment and safety gear.

"We have a demanding program and do all we can to give our students a professional, supportive experience," Warner said. "As a result, more than 90 percent of our graduates get placed in good, professional jobs. The Foundation's grants help keep our program in top shape."



Claim Jumper volleyball athletes hit the road for competitions throughout the Central Valley Conference.



Debaters sharpen their skills and bring home honors from state competitions.



# Fiscal Report



THE COLUMBIA COLLEGE FOUNDATION is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to raising supplemental funds to support student success and promote quality higher education in our community. Established by Dr. Harvey “Dusty” Rhodes in 1972, the Foundation today has an all-volunteer community board that works to raise the profile of the c-ollege and expand partnerships with organizations, businesses and individuals who believe in the value of high-quality, accessible public education.

Foundation income supports a variety of college programs and activities each year, and the Foundation oversees the financial management of more than \$1.16 million in assets. Assets consist of cash, investments and collections held in unrestricted funds, restricted funds and endowments. An annual audit of finances and record-keeping is conducted by a third-party auditor.

## Sources of Funds 2013-14

<b>Total Contributed</b>		<b>\$150,834</b>
Individuals/organizations	\$126,715	
Events	24,119	
Investment gain		121,590
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$272,424</b>

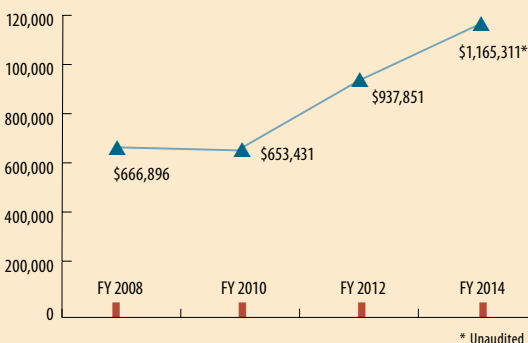
## Disbursements & Expenses 2013-14

<b>Total Disbursements</b>		<b>\$94,303</b>
Scholarships & Awards*	\$76,232	
Programs/special projects	18,071	
<b>Other expenses</b>		<b>26,099</b>
Fundraising events	12,710	
Investment fees	3,630	
Administration/other	9,759	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$120,402</b>

\*Community groups awarded an additional \$17,350 to Columbia College scholarship applicants.



## Growth in Total Assets 2008-2014



## Investing in the Foundation

ALL GIFTS MADE to the Foundation have a direct impact on student success and are greatly appreciated, regardless of size. Donors can choose from a variety of projects and programs to suit their philanthropic interests. All donations are tax deductible to the greatest extent permitted by law. Giving options include:

**Scholarships**—Donors can support students directly through named and/or endowed scholarships.

**Program Support**—Allows the Foundation to grant funds in support of various campus activities and student organizations.

**Library Endowment**—Supports expansion and updating of the library's various collections, including books, periodicals, and subscriptions.

**General Endowment**—The Foundation's key vehicle for long-term stability and asset growth.

## How to Give

Donations to the Columbia College Foundation may be made at any time online at our website: [www.gocolumbia.edu/foundation](http://www.gocolumbia.edu/foundation).

Donations by check may be made payable to the Columbia College Foundation and sent to 11600 Columbia College Drive, Sonora, CA 95370.

For more information and giving options, call 209.588.5055, e-mail Amy Nilson at [nilsona@yosemite.edu](mailto:nilsona@yosemite.edu) or visit [www.gocolumbia.edu/foundation](http://www.gocolumbia.edu/foundation).

**Unrestricted**—The college's needs are constantly growing; this fund allows the Foundation to provide direct support where it is needed most.

## Honor Roll of Donors

Columbia College Foundation gifts received in Fiscal Years 2013 and 2014

### President's Circle Gold (\$5,000+)

Foundation for California Community Colleges  
Tom Johnson Estate  
Marjorie Rogers  
Sonora Parent Nursery  
Wise Family Charitable Trust

### President's Circle (\$1,000–\$4,999)

Anonymous  
Erik Andal  
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Dr. Leslie Buckalew  
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Estanislao Chapter #58 E Clampus Vitus  
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Mother Lode Art Association  
P.E.O. Sisterhood, Chapter LH  
P.E.O. Sisterhood, Chapter TP  
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Tuolumne County Garden Club  
Gary Whitfield  
Shamariah and Keturah Wilk  
Candace Wilson

### Major Donor (\$500–\$999)

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Dona Goodlett  
Independence Hall Quilters  
Mel Kirk  
Clifford and Kathy Lingren  
Dr. Micha W. Miller  
Amy Nilson-Baum  
Karin Rodts  
Savemart S.H.A.R.E.S. Classified Senate  
Teresa Scott  
Adrienne Seegers  
Stephanie L. Suess  
Diane Wirth

### Donor (\$100–\$499)

Anonymous  
Assoc. Students of Columbia College  
Elizabeth Amundsen  
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Shirleen Browning  
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Melissa Colon  
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Julieann Dail  
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Linda Emerson  
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Rick Rivera  
Dr. Joseph M. Ryan  
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Michael and Lori Schaffner  
Katherine Schultz

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Diana Sunday  
Dr. Jeff W. Tolhurst  
James M. Toner  
Michael Torok  
Tina Trolier  
Chris Vitelli  
Lahna Von Epps  
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LTAC  
Texans Credit Union  
Women of the Moose  
And numerous in-kind donors who support our events

"The greatest use of life is to spend it on something which will outlast it."—William James



## Community Outreach



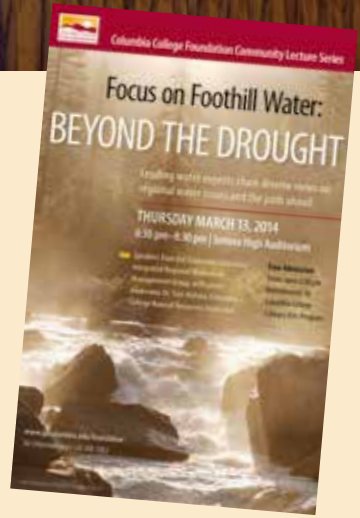
An expert panel discusses urgent water issues at the March community forum. Professor Tom Hofstra (standing, right) serves as moderator.



WHETHER LAUNCHING a new lecture series, hosting a celebration to welcome a new college president or organizing a ceremony that honors the year's top students, the Columbia College Foundation made community outreach a key focus in the last year.

"We want to bring the campus and the community together in meaningful ways, and it's been exciting to see the results," said Foundation President Stephanie Suess.

More than 200 people attended the Foundation's first community lecture on the regional water supply in March, more than 450 attended the annual Columbia Wine Tasting in April to support the Hospitality Management program and a full house came out to enjoy the annual Scholarship & Awards Ceremony at the end of the spring semester.



Community and campus leaders (right) gather to welcome Columbia's new president, Dr. Angela Fairchild (above). Students Will Kiel and Ashley Albertson (below) perform at the event.



In addition, the Foundation co-hosted a community reception for Columbia's new president, Dr. Angela Fairchild, provided campus visits for community groups and will be helping the college host focus groups and public surveys for its strategic planning work this fall.

"Expect to see this kind of outreach continue," Suess noted. "Community engagement is key to the success of the Foundation."

Foundation Board Member Judy Myers (left) collects feedback at a campus planning workshop.



Culinary students add flavor to the popular Columbia Wine Tasting, a benefit for the Hospitality Management program.



### Celebrating success!

The Foundation hosted the 2014 Columbia College Scholarships & Awards Celebration in April.



Recipient Shannon Lundeen-Kreuzer (second from left) & family

**"I would like to thank the extremely generous hearts of donors who believe in this school and in the students. . . Without your generosity, I would not have been able to afford to further my scholastic dreams."**

—**Shannon Lundeen-Kreuzer**, recipient of Columbia College Faculty Scholarship #1



Recipient Dominic Cummins (left) & donor Robert Gritz

**"I started a scholarship 10 years ago because I saw a need to assist non-resident students and to support diversity on our campus. Whether it's an older re-entry student, someone from Japan, an LGBT student or someone from the inner city. . . we need to experience and welcome all kinds of people."**

—Scholarship donor **Robert Gritz**



Recipient Mattie Milani with her son



Recipient Haley Perkins & family



Recipient Shawnee Rutter & her mother



## Columbia College Foundation

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