Community Report

Brady-Wise family gift helps to endow the new Columbia College Promise
Columbia College Promise offers youth tuition-free college

The Columbia College Foundation (CCF) has launched a new scholarship opportunity for local high school seniors enrolling at Columbia College beginning in fall 2018. The Columbia College Promise will make it possible for every local public high school graduate to attend Columbia College full time, tuition free, for their first academic year immediately after graduation. The program will be a three-year pilot, funded by local donors.

“Charlie Such, President of the Columbia College Foundation, called the endowment “beyond measure.” “This gift brings the potential of altering the lives of our students and our community for generations to come,” she said.

As part of its 50th anniversary, the college will honor the Brady/Wise Family with a special ceremony to rename the college’s library plaza.

Charitable gift goes to education

The family of three long-time community benefactors and early supporters of Columbia College has made a generous and far-reaching gift to local education—a $2 million endowment to the Columbia College Foundation from the Wise Family Charitable Trust and the estates of Don Brady, Millie Brady Wise and John Wise.

“Don Brady, Millie Brady Wise and John Wise,” said Amy Nilson, the Foundation’s executive director. “It’s such an honor to be entrusted with this legacy.”

In an agreement with their family, the funds will remain invested, and proceeds will provide ongoing annual support for two primary Foundation programs: The new Columbia College Promise for local high school graduates, and the Brady-Wise Mini Grant Program established in 2011.

Columbia College Foundation (CCF) Director Jim Roeber, a retired school administrator, has been spreading the word at area high schools. “Everyone I’ve talked to sees this as such a great opportunity,” he said, “I love the fact that our community college is reaching out and telling all our students ‘we want you here, and we’re going to help you get here.’ It’s powerful stuff!”

Student Focus: Inspiring Turnaround

Ten years ago, Danny Harthun was a troubled teen in a South Bay street gang, headed to prison with no view of a future beyond the four-year sentence he was facing. This fall, he celebrated his 31st birthday as a top scholarship winner at Columbia College, well on his way to degrees in forestry and fire science.

“I was a little nervous coming here as an older student,” Danny said. “But I’m motivated and passionate about what I want to do now—and I’m glad people see that.”

Danny completed a firefighting program while in prison, then drifted a few years after he was released. Finally ready for a new direction, he went back to school for a GED, then came to Columbia College for a fresh start. On his first visit to campus, he connected with Forestry Professor Dr. Tom Hofstra, and knew he was in the right place. “He talked with me for an hour, just telling me all about the different career paths, and what it would take,” Danny recalled.

“He listened to what my interests were—and I felt like I was talking right to the source. It was so much help.”

Next he got involved in the Forestry and Natural Resources Club and found a tight-knit group of friends of all ages. “Those people are great to me,” Danny said. “All the support you get here at Columbia is amazing.”

School connections helped him land summer forest restoration work at Calaveras Big Trees State Park, and he’s earning top grades now in a full slate of classes for his two Associate of Science degrees. Several Columbia College Foundation donors have helped him along the way.

“Working outdoors, helping people and being part of something bigger than myself,” Danny said. “That’s what I want.”

Campus Project: Fitness Trail Revival

“Working outdoors, helping people and being part of something bigger than myself,” Danny said. “That’s what I want.”

Credit long-time fitness instructor Mike Fabry for saving a 30-year-old Columbia College gem. Last fall, Fabry rallied campus coworkers to repair and revitalize the 1.4 mile trail which winds around campus and along a historic Gold Rush-era ditch. Fabry had been taking students on this trail daily for decades as part of his community fitness class, so he knew how badly it had deteriorated. He and a few coworkers pulled together cost estimates, and contacted the Columbia College Foundation to help with fundraising. Support came in quickly from Foundation donors, the Associated Students of Columbia College and a new Campus Pride Committee headed by Dean of Student Services Dr. Brandon Price. Contributions were bolstered by the Sonora Area Foundation’s “Trail Me About It” Fund and Adventist Health Sonora, along with Patricia Rhodes (widow of Columbia’s founding president Dr. Harvey “Dusty” Rhodes) and several other individuals.

With funds in hand, college staff designed new signage and the Campus Pride Committee organized a pair of campus work days where dozens of volunteers turned out to assist with trail improvements.

Foundation Director Del Hodges is glad to see much needed improvements take shape with the help of the college and the community. “It’s just the kind of project the Foundation is here to help bring together.”
**Community Outreach**

Whether it’s organizing community lectures on important local topics, connecting with neighbors at the Mother Lode Fair, hosting hundreds of visitors for the annual Columbia Wine Tasting to benefit hospitality management students or teaming up with dozens of community groups on scholarships, the Columbia College Foundation keeps a focus on community connections. Please watch our website and sign up for our email list to keep up to date. Next up: the 42nd Columbia Wine Tasting on Sunday, April 15, 2018.

**Bill Dunlavy remembered (1928–2017)**

Community service was a way of life for Sonora native Bill Dunlavy. A Columbia College Foundation board member for more than 15 years, he was active in his church, several service clubs, and all kinds of local causes. Born and raised in Sonora, Dunlavy was a proud graduate of Sonora High School and UC Berkeley, served in the Korean War and had a long career in corporate America before returning to his hometown in the mid 1980s.

“Bill deeply valued education, and we were honored to have him as a longtime leader and friend,” said Foundation President Colette Such. “He showed us all what it means to give back, and is dearly missed.”

**Fiscal Report 2016-2017**

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 college 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 $3.4 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 2016-17**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Contributed</th>
<th>$2,253,923</th>
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<tr>
<td>Individuals/Organizations</td>
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<td>Other Scholarship Fund</td>
<td>23,100</td>
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<td>Events</td>
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<td>Investment gain</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>$2,343,229</td>
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**Disbursements & Expenses 2016-17**

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<tr>
<th>Total Disbursements</th>
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<tr>
<td>Scholarships &amp; Awards*</td>
<td>$107,850</td>
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<td>Programs/Projects</td>
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<td>Other expenses</td>
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<td>Investment fees</td>
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<td>Administration/other</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>$241,742</td>
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*Community groups awarded an additional $19,550 to Columbia College scholarship applicants.

**Growth in Total Assets 2012–2017**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>FY 2012</th>
<th>FY 2014</th>
<th>FY 2016</th>
<th>FY 2017</th>
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<td>$1,165,313</td>
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<td>$1,478,417</td>
<td>$1,273,659</td>
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**Honor Roll of Donors**

Columbia College Foundation combined gifts received in Fiscal Years 2016 and 2017

**President’s Circle Diamond ($10,000+)**

- Robert L. Gritz
- Gregory Rhodes
- Mr. Allen Test and Mrs. Verna Test
- Anonymous
- AT&T
- Foundation for California Community Colleges
- Sonora Sunrise Rotary
- Wise Family Charitable Trust

**President’s Circle ($5,000–$9,999)**

- Jim and Pat Johnson
- Adventist Health Sonora
- Lee Family Foundation
- Sonora Lions Club

**President’s Circle Gold ($3,000–$4,999)**

- Barry and Sherrie Amundson
- Erik Andal
- Gene and Carolyn Andal
- Gary and Margie Bulkin
- Patrick Burke
- Bruce and Faylan Cannon
- Ross Carkert
- Robert and Anne Cavagnaro
- Julie Cowell
- Dean Cunningham
- Meredith L. Dean
- Denise Deatsch
- William and Mary Lou Dunlavy
- Angela R. Fairchilds
- Jeff and Sue Fitzwater
- Craig and Dorary Foletti

**President’s Circle ($1,000–$4,999)**

- Lee Ann Fox
- Dennis Gervin
- James and Diane Gilbert
- Del and Judy Hedges
- Suzy Hopkins and Chris Bateman
- Brian Jensen
- Lynn C. Martin
- Judy and Don Myers
- Janice Nelson
- Amy Nilson
- Robert E. Oakes
- Jeffrey and Robin Phillips
- Damon and Barbara Plowman
- Ernest Pozzi
- Phillip Reddy
- Patricia B. Rhodes
- Jim Riggs

**President’s Circle ($1,000–$4,999)**

- Run and Cindy Roberson
- Jim Roeber
- Teresa Scott
- Richard and Nancy Schwarzmann
- Charles and Kate Segerstrom
- David D. Stranz
- Colette Such and David Williams
- Stephanie L. Suess
- Jan Verhage
- Candace Wilson
- Associated Students of Columbia College
- Blue Mountain Minerals
- Estancias Chapter No. 58 ECV
- Freer Financial, Inc.
- Hart Paving & Grading, Inc.
- Jacobs Associates
- Leadership Team YCCD

(continued)
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**—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 collections.
- **General Endowment**—The Foundation’s key vehicle for long-term stability and asset growth.
- **Unrestricted**—This fund allows the Foundation to provide direct support where it is needed most.

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)

For more information and giving options, call 209.588.5065, email Amy Nilson at nilsona@yosemite.edu or visit our website.

Big boost for campus mini grants

Student athletes like Eugene Harvey and Maddison Stephens were able to travel with their basketball and volleyball teams up and down the Central Valley while keeping up their full academic schedules. Aspiring writers, editors and artists like Keirin Harrison and Elizabeth Rousseau were able to have their works published in a beautiful full-color journal.

Future fire fighters and forestry students like Justin Taylor and Kathy Marquez were able to build skills and get hands-on experience in their fields, using state-of-the-art tools and equipment. These students were among many who benefited from more than 20 mini grants awarded to students, faculty and staff by the Columbia College Foundation in the last two semesters.

“We call these small grants with a big impact,” said CCF Director Jeff Phillips, who chairs the mini grant committee. “We really enjoy learning about all of the innovative ideas and projects proposed, and it’s an honor to be able to support so many.”

Going forward, the program has a new name and a bright future. It has been renamed the Brady-Wise Mini Grant Program, in honor of Don Brady, Millie Brady Wise and John Wise. Earnings from their endowment gift will provide annual support for the mini grant program.

“This program has been so positive for the campus every semester since it started,” Phillips said. “It’s exciting to know it will continue to benefit students for so many years to come.”

Donor Gold ($500–$999)

- Kenan McDonald
- The Lingren Family
- Robert Horenstein
- Dennis and Denise Garcia
- Anonymous

Donor Gold ($500–$999)

- Tuolumne County Master Gardeners
- Tuolumne County Garden Club
- The Standard Pour
- The Black Hat Foundation
- Sonora Area Foundation
- P.E.O. Sisterhood Chapter LH
- Oak Valley Community Bank
- Mother Lode Art Association
- Judy and Don Myers
- Janice Nilson
- Amy Nilson
- Jeff and RobinPhillips
- Ken Perkins and Beverly Shane
- Jim Roeber
- James and Jean Roeber
- Rich and Nancy Schwarzmann
- James and Jean Roeber
- Tim and Nancy Roeber
- Susan Schoenberger
- Cynthia Schuler
- Richard and Nancy Schwarzmann
- Charles and Kate Segerstrom
- Todd and Cynthia Simonson
- Colette Such and David Williams
- Jan Verhage
- Jeff and Sue Warren
- Ed and Nancy Wylie
- Sonora Area Foundation
- Wise Family Charitable Trust

Donor Gold ($500–$999)

- Del and Judy Hodgers
- Patrick and Sharon Kelly
- Kenan and Cora McDonald
- Judy and Don Myers
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How to Give

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Honor Roll of Donors (continued)

- Mother Lode Art Association
- Oak Valley Community Bank
- P.E.O. Sisterhood Chapter LH
- P.E.O. Sisterhood Chapter TP
- P.E.O. Sisterhood Chapter VQ
- Sonora Area Foundation
- The Black Hat Foundation
- The Standard Pour
- Tuolumne County Garden Club
- Tuolumne County Master Gardeners

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- Michal W. Miller
- William Peterson
- Ida M. Ponder
- Karin Rodts
- Adrienne Seegers
- Diana Sunday
- Alaska Airlines
- Anonymous
- Black Oak Casino
- California Alumni Club of Tuolumne County
- Glenn S. Caldwell Insurance Services, Inc.
- independence Hall Quilters
- Mierce Trottis
- Payden & Regel
- Soroptimist International of Sonora
- Twain Harte Rotary

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- Don and Dixie Hukari
- Pam Guerra-Schmidt
- Polly Gathings
- Nancy Dove and Steve Card
- Teresa Cortey
- Harry and Florence Nakamoto
- Tamara L. Oxford
- Sue Tripp
- Charles Waldman
- Thad Waterbury
- Debbie and Duke York

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Priceless moments of encouragement and gratitude fill the day at the Columbia College Foundation’s annual Scholarships and Awards Celebration each April. Students and their families have a chance to meet their scholarship donors in person. More than 100 Columbia College students received more than $127,000 in scholarship support through the Columbia College Foundation in the 2016-17 school year, thanks to collaboration with more than 30 community partners.

“My educational pursuits would not be possible without this support. Thank you for enabling me to follow my dreams of becoming a teacher...I am forever grateful.”
—Elizabeth Ernst Ekstrum, Columbia College Faculty

“Your scholarship has given me the gift of education...Truly, I consider what you are doing heroic...to give of yourself so that strangers can get an education...with no other gain than a stronger community—perhaps years down the road.”
—Austen Thibault, Scholarship recipient

Columbia College Foundation 11600 Columbia College Dr., Sonora CA 95370 209.588.5065 www.gocolumbia.edu/foundation