Thank you all for your support of the McKinley High School Foundation. Through your support of the Foundation, you directly support McKinley High School and their mission of preparing students for success in life.

Ron Okamura, McKinley High School’s principal, shared that the school is currently reviewing its mission and goals statements as they prepare students for post graduate plans. Current programs continue to be very successful. McKinley’s Math, Robotics, and Science Olympiad Teams persist in their pursuit of excellence. The Center for Tomorrow’s Leaders (CTL), a unique program, continues to grow and provide opportunities for our students they become the leaders of tomorrow. In addition, “Ambassadors” and President’s Society” created to enhance the opportunities to teach leadership, is ongoing.

The faculty at McKinley also volunteer their efforts to provide guidance outside of the classroom to enhance our student’s learning experience. Continuing initiatives include Ignition, a mentoring program to help freshman, extra curricula activities, speech and debate, college classes (Running Start, Early Admit, etc), as well as coaching sports teams.

I would like to reiterate that Great Schools awarded McKinley High School the 2019 College Success Awards winner: McKinley competed in a national search for College Success schools. This award honors public high schools in 25 states that are doing a great job of preparing students to get into and succeed in college. See how this award winning school encourages kids to explore their dreams while also instilling the value of giving back to their community. The US News magazine published the 2018 “Best High Schools” and ranked McKinley 3rd Best of Public High Schools in Hawaii. That is quite a testimony of McKinley’s commitment to provide the best for our students, noticing that 97% of the school population are minority and 57% are categorized as “Economically Disadvantaged”.

We can all help McKinley continue their “Pursuit of Excellence” by supporting the McKinley High School Foundation. The McKinley Foundation has supported programs such as Robotics, Band, CTL, College and Career programs, Ignition, Speech and Drama, and other school initiatives and has awarded over 1.4 million dollars to over 1,000 seniors.

Please visit the McKinley Foundation website.

The site address is: http://mckinleyfoundation.org.

Aloha,

Neal Takamori
President
Meet the 2019 McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship Recipients.

Meet the 2019 McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship Recipients. Part of the application process for the recipients requires that they write a brief essay on the following: “Discuss one of your accomplishments or an event that sparked personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others”. Below is a summary of their responses.

Kiara Mae Gerardo: Being part of the McKinley Varsity Softball team during her sophomore year truly helped to shape Kiara into the person she is today. She vividly recalls a time when she was physically and emotionally at her lowest point as an athlete. During one game she made errors and when the coach talked to the team after the game, she found herself crying because she felt that she had let her team down with what she considered a poor performance. From that day forward she concentrated on not dwelling on mistakes but to pick herself up and do the best she could and said that there is no substitute for hard work. She still struggles with self-confidence but knows that there is always room for improvement – on and off of the field. Kiara Mae is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa majoring in Healthcare with a Nursing Major. She is the recipient of an Alexander & Baldwin Inc./Matson Inc./Robert J. Pfeiffer Community Scholarship in the amount of $4,000.

Yongyu Tang: Yongyu describes herself as detailed oriented but is quick to add that it should be followed by “driven but always stressed.” During her junior year Yongyu had a very busy schedule and it wasn’t long before her greatest strength became her greatest weakness. This extremely busy schedule caused her to feel so overwhelmed that it would take a month until it became too much for her to handle and she broke down and entered what she refers to as “The Dark Ages.” For two weeks she was numbed to her responsibilities – showing up to class and doing the bare minimum. With the end of the school quickly approaching her responsibility and support system kicked in and she shared her weakness with friends and an advisor who sat her down and helped her develop a plan of action. She says that this troubling event made her realize that asking for and seeking help is so important and one should always reach out for help and accept it gracefully. Yongyu is attending the University of Southern California where her major is Business Administration and Accounting. She is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship honoring Eyvinne & Kay Lee in the amount of $4,000.

Jeremy Xu: Being bullied in elementary school caused Jeremy to withdraw from social activities. Even during middle school, he staved off loneliness by reading books. Only after entering McKinley did he make the decisions to break out of his shell and make friends. He joined the Science Olympiad team and was amazed when his advisor promoted him to a leadership position. At the first meeting he held in his position he says he became tongue-tied in front of his audience. Determined to overcome his shyness he went out of his way to talk to strangers and fellow classmates; he even went as far as writing down small scripts on index cards. To his surprise and delight he gradually became more eloquent and even started to enjoy speaking and says by using his first embarrassing setback as a catalyst he has developed into a well-rounded individual. He is attending the University of Oregon where his major is Electrical Engineering. He is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship honoring Eyvinne & Kay Lee in the amount of $4,000.

Ann Wu: When her family faced some financial hardships, Ann knew that she would need to apply for scholarships if she wanted to pursue her dream of being a college graduate. One opportunity that came her way was a four-year scholarship to QuestBridges partnering colleges, she was a finalist but wasn’t prepared for the devastating feeling of despair when she didn’t receive a scholarship. Not being matched to any of the QuestBridges partnering colleges made her come to the realization that everything happens for a reason and even though she wasn’t accepted just being a QuestBridges Finalist was in itself a huge achievement and she will continue to strive for her goals and not let an obstacle stop her. Ann is attending Colby College majoring in Finance. She is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $3,000.

Cheng Jie Wu: At a young age Cheng Jie’s parents made the difficult decision that he and his mother would immigrate to the America so he could have a better life. At the time he could not understand how this would help him when he was miserable. A phone call with his father and grandparents spurred him on to make the most of the situation. Being bullied in elementary school was difficult and his grades began to drop. Then he had a revelation that he distinctly remembers, he thought “if I can’t even handle this, how in the world am I supposed to make my family proud?” From that day forward he said it did not matter if someone is bullying him or not: If he did not perform well in school, then his chance at success in life would drop immensely. While he thinks bullies are insecure in their own lives it is important not to be the...
hinderance in your own life to succeed. Cheng Jie is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where his major is Computer Science. He is the recipient of a Scholarship in Memory of Michael Matsumoto, McKinley Class of 1962 in the amount of $2,500.

Andy Huang: The summer before his junior year at McKinley he and a classmate from his Design Tech class worked together to develop a game demo over the summer break. The classmate was to code and Andy was to design the game's assets ranging from 3-D models to the user-interface. They created a comprehensive document outlining timelines, technical considerations and courses to learn with the ultimate goal of having their demo published on a game demo platform called Steam Greenlight. Andy invested not only his time but his own money to enroll in an online learning platform called Udemy. While Andy worked tirelessly the classmate failed to meet deadlines leading to the project being dropped. Andy says he learned a valuable lesson – mainly to assess capabilities of co-workers, set hard deadlines and verify that everyone is on the same page. Despite the failure of the project he is thankful towards his friend for the skills he gained in computer graphics and the maturity they both garnered. Andy is attending the University of Southern California where his major is Animation and Digital Arts. He is the recipient of a Hung Wo and Elizabeth Lau Ching Community Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $2,000.

Karen Lau: During her junior year at McKinley Karen found herself to be over-extended in activities. She was a member of Orchestra and SAT and finals coming up. And on top of that she needed to ace all of her seven classes and an online course, regularly attend rehearsals, sectionals, NHS tutoring, officer meetings and a part-time job. She was also the co-chairperson of the Senior Gift Committee, a tradition in the Band and Orchestra program in which juniors in the program plan and give the seniors some memorable, creative and unique gift so that they have something to remember the program with. Her biggest regret is that she did not delegate tasks and enforce deadlines and she ended up doing most of the work herself. Recognizing that she did not deal with the problem in the best way she took away an invaluable lesson that one must delegate with respect and confidence to become a better leader – something that she says for her this was a life learning experience. She is attending Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University majoring in Air Traffic Management/Aviation. She is the recipient of a Hung Wo and Elizabeth Lau Ching Community Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $2,000.

Dalena Le: As a young child Dalena didn’t have empathy for her mother. Her mother became a single parent when Dalena was in middle school and worked hard to provide for Dalena and her brother. As a typical teenager Dalena went through some rebelling difficult times, and didn’t help around the house. One day, according to her, she woke up and realized just how much her mother sacrificed for her and her brother, it was like a light bulb went off in her head and says it was a mature life changing moment. She changed her bad habits and helped out at home, cleaning, doing laundry and washing the dishes. Her goal for the future is to work hard and become somebody that her mom is proud of. She is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where her major is Biology. She is the recipient of a Hung Wo and Elizabeth Lau Ching Community Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $2,000.

Amy Nguyen: A few years ago, Amy’s mother sat her and her brothers down and told them they would be moving to Hawaii without their father. Confused and heartbroken Amy struggled to make friends and when she turned to her brothers for role models was devastated when they dropped out of school. Scared that she too would follow in their footsteps Amy knew she had to buckle down and strive to do well academically. She soon discovered that she was more capable than she thought. Her confidence soared and she started participating in extracurricular activities. She says that moving to Hawaii taught her to be independent and adapt to change. She is proud of her accomplishments and looks forward to many new adventures. She is attending the University of San Francisco majoring in Biochemistry. She is the recipient of a Hung Wo and Elizabeth Lau Ching Community Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $2,000.

Sonny Sakihara: In middle school Sonny was enrolled in the band but, in his own words, failed miserably, he says test after test he continued to fail and finally dropped out. However, a few weeks later his teacher advised him to continue and taking his advice he gave it another try. He says that being in the band was more than learning to play an instrument it helped him overcome adversity. This also encouraged him to participate in other organizations including Science Olympiad, where again he and his partner were unsuccessful. Determined to improve the team, Sonny asked to be captain and took the initiative to coordinate meetings and the entire team performed better the second year. He says the resilience that he has developed through extracurricular activities has been essential for future successes. Sonny is attending Lehigh University where his major is Computer Science. He is the recipient of a Hung Wo and Elizabeth Lau Ching Community Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $2,000.

Hyunjun Song: Hyunjun’s mother is his rock. His father was having a difficult time obtaining permanent residency so his mother was basically a single parent. Not only that but on top of running the family convenience store and supporting her family, she also took care of his grandparents and great-grandmother. His great-grandmother had Alzheimer’s disease and this was added stress for his mother. Sonny says that not only was he not helping out at home, he was also doing poorly in school. He buckled down at school and after school he would go to the family store and help his mother. He credits his mother for instilling in him an important life lesson: always stand strong and be confident regardless of the difficulties. He is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa majoring in Computer Science. He is the recipient of The Kingo Hayashi, Mikako Hayashi & the McKinley Class of 1934 Scholarship in the amount of $2,000.
Ariel Thepsenavong: For her senior project fieldwork, Ariel mentored a robotics team at Lanakila Elementary School and worked with twelve students from third to fifth grade. This turned out to be a huge challenge for her because she was uncomfortable and intimidated of talking in front of an audience, no matter how young they were. For the first few days she did what the teacher did and talked in a calm voice without being authoritative. This experience helped her for her own future, while she knows she would like to work with students in the future she now knows that she likes working with older students. She says that in the end she may not be rich or famous, but she wants to live a life where the people she reaches out to are all triumphant at what they want to achieve. Ariel is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where her major is Computer Engineering. She is the recipient of the Steven & Lois Mihaylo Family Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $2,000.

Evon Diep: Coming to Hawaii with her parents as a young child and attending preschool, Evon still remembers a short conversation with a classmate. She had yawned causing her to be tearful eyed, a classmate asked why she was crying and Devon didn't know the English word for yawn. It took a lot of hard work but she became fluent in English and translates for her parents. She has visited Vietnam several times and understands why her parents wanted to come to America for a better life. Evon is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa majoring in Business Administration. She is the recipient of The Cades Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $2,000.

Adrian Aguinaldo: On October 8, 2017 Adrian and his teammates participated in the World Championships of Outrigger Canoe, Molokai Hoe, a 42 – mile paddling race across the Kaiwi Channel. As they paddled away from Molokai the waves got bigger, the currents and wind got stronger and felt the canoe go straight up and then straight down. As more and more canoes passed them their canoe flipped and it took them 30 minutes to get it back afloat. They found themselves in last place and even thought of giving up, but their steersman, Henry, mentioned what their coach told them before the race - “We can't control the channel, but we can control our effort and attitude towards the race.” They ended up getting 100th place, but it didn't really matter. The experience taught Adrian that it is important to finish what you started, even though there are bumps along the way. When faced with a problem, you can't just give up, you have to have the right attitude towards it while giving it your best effort to solve it. Adrian is attending the University of San Francisco where his major is Nursing or Psychology. He is the recipient of a Carole Kai Charities Scholarship in the amount of $1,500.

Trinh Phung: Losing contact with her father and stepfather at an early age left Trinh heartbroken and missed them terribly. She also blamed herself for getting close to her stepfather and felt abandoned and betrayed. It took a lot of time and help from others to make her realize that she was not to blame and she needed to recognize her own self-worth. She then worked hard and strived to do her best, she wanted to be successful and prove that she was capable of doing great things on her own. This attitude has made her a stronger, smarter person that and confront difficult situations on her own. She is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa majoring in Chemistry. She is the recipient of a Carole Kai Charities Scholarship in the amount of $1,500.

Mayele Bautista: Mayele was terrified of public speaking, the thought of it made her head pound. When she was a sophomore her English teacher assigned every student a presentation on an environmental issue which would be graded by fellow classmates. She did research on the endangerment of the blue fin tuna species. She says her presentation fell flat and she did not receive good responses from her classmates. When the teacher assigned another presentation on culture, Mayele chose her Filipino heritage. Inspired by her parents’ desire for immigrant to America for a better life, she immersed herself in learning all she could about her ethnic roots. When the day came to present, she was just as nervous as the first presentation but as she went on her voice became stronger and when her classmates gave her positive responses her self-confidence soared. She said that day she learned that when one is truly passionate about what they have to say, it becomes apparent to the audience. She is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where her major is Nursing. She is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship Honoring Dr. Raymond & Carol Yap in the amount of $1,500.

Thanh Nguyen: Coming to a new country and not knowing the language is daunting, but coming to a new country and being in a school that is English speaking and not be able to understand it is especially hard. That is where Thanh found himself as a freshman at Kapolei High School. He struggled with English for a long time and coupled with trying to adapt to a completely different country and environment was especially difficult. Attending McKinley was a positive step for him, he became fluent in English and was able to persevere and motivate him to not only improve his communication skills but to excel academically. Thanh says that he feels the importance of putting 100% effort on anything he does. Thanh is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa majoring in Architecture. He is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship Honoring Senator Patsy Young in the amount of $1,500.

Kailani Kaawa: Kailani says that the one challenge that she, and her whole family, faces is the fact that her father must spend months at a time working in Japan and other Asian countries. When he is back on the island, she says that the time he spends with them is the best. Her dad inspires her to connect with her roots and start her own business. Another challenge she faces is the fact that her mother is not fluent in English so Kailani has to help her brother with his homework too. In spite of the challenges, she writes that they have actually brought her family closer together and they have a special bond. The challenges have also given Kailani a sense of independence and provided her with many lessons that she can use and share in the future. Kailani is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where her major is International Business and Hawaiian Studies. She is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship Honoring Abraham and Shin Quon Wong Goo in the amount of $1,250.
Colby Lane: Colby’s father went through some trying times which became a real challenge for her. She wanted to be supportive as much as she could so she took a part time job as well as being involved with extracurricular activities. When her grandmother on her father’s side of the family became ill the entire family pitched in to make things easier for her. Throughout all of this her mother was a real trooper and inspired Colby to accept what she couldn’t change and to work positively on the things she could. She is happy to report that her family is doing well and says that the experience has taught her to be patient, mature and understanding. Colby is attending Seattle Pacific University majoring in Nursing. She is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship Honoring Abraham and Shin Quon Wong Goo in the amount of $1,250.

Johnny Ho: Johnny’s computer was not functioning as it should. After looking it over he discovered that there was dust everywhere. Because his parents had no experience with computers, they told him to google it. He did google it and got the instructions on what to do. After taking it apart he said there were tons of multi-colored cables entwined in the case and they were covered in dust. Working carefully, he removed parts and soon discovered his hands were shaking uncontrollably, so much so that he decided to stop and try again the next day. The next day he began to put the pieces back together, it was stressful and it took him several hours. But in the end, he was successful and he was very proud of what he had accomplished, in fact when he had to do it years later it was a much easier task. Johnny is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where his major is Computer Science. He is the recipient of The Shiro and Jean (Kamishima) Matsuo Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

Lawrence Lin: Being assigned a quarter project in science class proved to be a life changing experience for Lawrence. They had the option to create a Hawaiian canoe that is able to hold a certain amount of weight or an Ahupua’a. He chose the canoe and because he had no experience working with balsa wood and to top it off, he was determined to earn first place in the competition. After gathering all of the materials and researching Hawaiian canoes he chose an outrigger canoe. Having a hard time finding the right tools he finally asked his family and they helped him and he was able to make a rough layout of the canoe. He then started to fine tune it and getting stuck again asked Mr. Wendell Chang, the crafts teacher for help. That was hard for him to do because he did not have Mr. Chang for a class and he was nervous and afraid to do the ask, but Mr. Chang said yes and helped him with making two holes on the left side of the canoe. His last step was to finish the lateral support float attached to the hull. This played a big part in the competition to see which canoe could hold the most weight because that helped to distribute the weight and balanced out where it beat the competition by a landslide. The biggest takeaway from the experience was do not be afraid to ask people for help. Lawrence is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa majoring in Travel Industry Management. He is the recipient of the Shigeru Okino Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

Joan Martinez: Growing up as an immigrant was a hard thing for Joan to overcome. She felt ashamed of her heritage and wanted only to fit in with all of her classmates. Because of this she stayed quiet in spite of the fact that all she ever wanted was to belong and have friends she could talk to. As time passed, she transitioned into the local lifestyle. She no longer wore bright colors but chose more monotone colors. In the end she says that she sacrificed her cultural identity for her transition into local life because she wasn’t proud of being Filipino. Now that she has matured, she realizes that to stay true to herself is the most important thing. What matters most is that she shouldn’t forget where she came from. She says she should be embracing who I am instead of trying to be part of the crowd. Joan is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where her major is English. She is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship Honoring Senator Daniel K. Inouye in the amount of $1,250.

Chloe Chan: Chloe writes that the loss of her grandfather was the most traumatic event in her life that changed her. She says that losing someone you care about is never an easy thing to process. In her case, she began to skip meals, got less sleep and was crying out of nowhere in the middle of the night. But she goes on to say the worse part was the feeling of regret. She regretted not spending more time with him, not showing him more respect and not telling him I loved him more. While his passing was difficult it came with a lesson, her loss taught her that any connection you share with another human being is one not to be overlooked or taken for granted. Cherish everyone who comes and goes because you don’t get to choose who can stay. For everyone to grow it is needed to accept and acknowledge the truth. Those past few sentences were in her own words and we can all learn by them. Chloe is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa majoring in Accounting. She is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship Honoring Stan Seki in the amount of $1,250.

Darion D’Antin: In elementary and middle school Darion says that he was a follower and not a leader, in fact his peers found him to different and that left him with little self-confidence. Then when he received a 4.0 his first semester as a freshman he was astounded. This gave him the boost he needed and it instilled in him a desire to excel in his classes. With this newfound self-confidence he also discovered that he could be a leader instead of the one to always follow, in fact in this new role he found that he was a leader to those who lacked the same drive that he once had. This helped immensely because he could relate to their feelings and was able to help them succeed. This was validated when his classmates saw his logical approach to problems and admired his creative abilities. Darion is attending Hawaii Pacific University where he is majoring in Psychology. He is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship Honoring Dr. Ruth Ono in the amount of $1,250.
A visit to Vietnam was a life changing experience for Vivian. While she had always been aware of poverty, she was not prepared for the devastating impact it made on her. Seeing children selling lottery tickets in the street to make as little as a dollar was something she could not imagine. This challenged her to view money differently and has learned to spend money more wisely, something that she had never given thought to before. She reflected on how fortunate she is to be getting a free education, which would allow her to become financially successful in life. Vivian is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa majoring in Health. She is the recipient of the Island Insurance Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

The junior year taught her to persevere, and at the end of the year she was motivated to do better her senior year. Evelyn is attending the University of Nevada at Las Vegas where her major is Nursing. She is the recipient of the McKinley Class of 1967 Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

In her sophomore year Lynn placed 4th place in the State for Dramatic Interpretation, so as a junior she had high hopes of placing 1st place at the 2018 Hawaii State Forensics Championship. If she did it would potentially earn her a chance to compete in the National Speech and Debate Tournament. She performed her speech and was confident that she did an outstanding job. When she didn't place, she was devastated, not understanding what she could have done to improve her speech. Lynn eventually sat down and talked with her speech coach asking what she could have done to make her speech better, the coach's reply startled her, she simply said “nothing.” She explained that there was nothing wrong with Lynn's speech, even if she had performed it flawlessly, she still could have not made it to the final round, simply because of luck. Not every factor of success is in our control. Lynn is attending the University of Nevada in Las Vegas majoring in Biomedical Science/Biochemistry. She is the recipient of the McKinley Class of 1954 Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

Always thinking that she is “average” has been a real challenge for Quyen. She totally understands that it is not necessarily true but still has a hard time shaking that feeling off. Quyen remembers a teacher who spoke about the chains that hold us back. She said those chains prevent us from moving forward, that one could never run to their goals if we have them on. She went on to say that we must recognize that some chains cannot be gotten rid of right away, but if we tuck them into a corner of your room and let it collect some dust, one day you will clean your room, you'll see the chain and would have forgotten it was there. Quyen took her words to heart and says the past year for her was a great one opportunity wise, she was selected to become a team captain, a club president and a member of the student body council, a big step in moving forward without a chain. Quyen is attending the University of Puget Sound where her major is Biochemistry. She is the recipient of the McKinley Centennial Class of 1965 Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

Joining the Tennis Team at McKinley her freshman year was a challenge for Jessica. She actually joined the team late in the season so while her teammates were on the courts hitting, she was practicing catching balls and working on her footwork. The frustration of not being as good as her teammates skyrocketed day by day. She finally told her mother about how bad she was feeling. Her mother was a huge help and told her to talk to the coach, she did and began to do extra practices and more conditioning and to her surprise she was second doubles her junior year. Her take-away is that you can accomplish anything in life if you work hard enough. Jessica is attending Kapiolani Community College majoring in Elementary Education. She is the recipient of the McKinley Class of 1966 Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.
Jett Kaler: Jett attended a Rotary International Conference in Atlanta, Georgia in the summer of 2016. He was so inspired that he took it upon himself to start an Interact Club at McKinley. The first semester of school the Tiger Interact Club became one of the most successful clubs at McKinley. Then they had a huge drop in people involvement the second semester. Jett was disappointed with this setback. He called a meeting of the officers of the club and they came up with a plan to contact the members of the club individually, his plan worked and once again the club left a footprint one community service project at a time. Jett was awarded the honorable Paul Harris Fellow Award by the Rotary Club of Ala Moana, which was a true honor for him. Jett is attending Auburn University majoring in Professional Flight Aviation. He is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship Honoring Thongpouk & Thongboun Mounthongdy Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

Chick-Yin Oscar Ma: Chick-Yin went to an elementary school in Hong Kong, the classes she was enrolled in were in English except for her Chinese class. Her parents thought that coming to Hawaii would be a rather easy transition for her because of her knowledge of the English language. Chick-Yin soon discovered that it is not easy to acclimate to a new country with a totally new school system. She says that the schools in Hong Kong are much stricter and so being respectful and well behaved were easy for her, but she also says that she embraced the freedom that we have in America and is grateful for the opportunity to be here. She feels that she has been able to combine the teachings of both countries and it has made her a stronger person. Chick-Yin is attending Northern Arizona University majoring in Environmental Science. She is the recipient of the McKinley Class of 1994 Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

Tung Thanh Le: Because English was Tung’s second language, he had to work extra hard in school. When he arrived in Hawaii in 2013, he was not put in an English Language Learners class like other immigrant students. He tried extra hard and although he didn’t have a 4.0 GPA, he didn’t do badly with a 3.0. His parents were disappointed but understood the challenge he faced. Because he wanted to make them proud when he entered McKinley, he put in the extra effort it took to make that 4.0. He says he could never imagine taking AP classes and doing well in them or ever going on to higher education. He looks back at where he was and how far he has come and says doubting yourself only holds you back from what your true potential is. Tung is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where his major is Health Sciences. He is the recipient of the McKinley Class of 1983 Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

Ryan Cabote: A hike with his friends and an encounter with a slug was what Ryan writes about. While he uses a metaphor for the slug, what really shines through in is essay is the desire to succeed is his ultimate goal. The oldest of three children he says he never had to wear hand-me-downs. However, he was expected to strive to have a 4.0 GPA and because he did have a 4.0 GPA, he was able to participate in extracurricular activities and enjoyed them. He is looking forward to the future where he dreams of conducting psychotherapy and administering medication to treat autism, anxiety and Alzheimer’s. Ryan is attending Connecticut College where his major is Neuroscience and Psychology. He is the recipient of the McKinley Class of 1994 Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

Sapioamoa Steffany: Sapioamoa’s family moved to Hawaii from Samoa in 2014 because her father was in bad health. Her mother had to resign her job in Samoa and move to Hawaii to care for Sapioamoa and her father. Sapioamoa’s older siblings stayed in Samoa to finish school. It was a really hard time for the family financially and emotionally. Her father is still trying to get healthy and what motivates Sapioamoa is her desire to help her parents. She says that Hawaii has given her the best learning opportunity and opened so many doors for her. She is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa majoring in Business – Entrepreneurship. She is the recipient of the McKinley Class of 1967 Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

Ryan Wong: Ryan was born in Hawaii but lived in Hong Kong until he was 12. He says the Asian education system is strict, fast-paced learning which gave him a good mathematics foundation. When he moved back to Hawaii during middle school, he had a very hard time, he spoke with a strong accent and struggled with English. He slowly managed to make friends and this along with English Language Learner classes his English greatly improved. Ryan says that even though he had a difficult past it has made him a stronger and better person. Ryan is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa where his major is Mechanical Engineering. He is the recipient of the Jeanette (Lee) Kawamura Memorial Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

Eduardo Kho Jr.: Growing up Eduardo was always anxious and it became worse in middle school when students were exposed to more social skills and speaking in front of others. In high school the thought of speaking in front of the class would make him physically sick. In his sophomore year he recalls a time when he had to speak in front of his class and this time, he practiced his presentation over and over before giving it, even though he was nervous the presentation went well and he knew that he had overcome his fear. Things got even better for him in his junior year when he joined the Ignition Program. This helped him to step out of his comfort zone and says strangely enough he enjoyed facing his fears. Eduardo is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa majoring in Computer Hardware Engineering. He is the recipient of the Loretta (Lee) Sawai Memorial Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.
Nicole Goya: Nicole writes that when she turned 16, she began working as an assistant in the office of the company her father worked at. After a few months she had to leave that position and went to work in a fast food restaurant at the Ala Moana Center for the summer. She now works at another retail store at Ala Moana. All of her jobs required learning a different skill. While that was challenging for her, she has come to appreciate the diversity of skills she has acquired. She says that these skills have proven useful at home, at school and in the public. She looks back at the time when she left one job and gained independence by being able to find a new one that made her self-sufficient and looks forward to continuing her journey of self-discovery and personal growth. Nicole is attending Kapiolani Community College where her major is Biology. She is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship Honoring Dr. Richard Kosaki in the amount of $1,250.

Emilie Penh: Emilie grew up with her brother and her single parent mother and thus helped out a lot at home. She recalls being bullied in elementary school, which made her withdrawn and shy. In hindsight she looks back at that time in her life and came to the realization that her lack of social interaction actually increased her desire to learn. Her schedule became filled with school and studying, she wanted to stay in school to learn and willingly signed up for extra afterschool programs to further her education. Emilie is attending Kapiolani Community College majoring in Radiologic Technology. She is the recipient of the Shigeru Okino Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

Arienne Moses: When Arienne was in elementary school her family life was in turmoil. When her parents divorced, she felt torn about the decision of who she and her brother would live with their father or her mother. Because she cared for both of them it was a very trying time and she was angry at the world for the break-up of her family. She says that only when she enrolled at McKinley did her mentality change. New friends and caring faculty changed her thinking for the better and looked back at the past as a learning experience that only made her stronger, stating “these traumas are why I am empathetic, open and caring today.” Arienne is attending Honolulu Community College majoring in Radiologic Technology. She is the recipient of the C.A.R.S. Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

Priscilla Bolos: Priscilla was overwhelmed with her math class and when it came to taking a test that would include seven chapters, it put her in such a state of panic that she literally broke down and cried. She states that it was her faith that made her realize that she could pass the test if all she did was study. With a new sense of resolve and confidence she put her studying at the top of her to do list and was thrilled to get a 97.5% on the test. She credits her faith to help her overcome challenges. Priscilla is attending Kapiolani Community College where her major is Accounting. She is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

Jordan-Reynell Tongpalan: Jordan writes that his most challenging experience to date was obtaining the rank of Eagle Scout. Scouting had been a strong foundation for him and his family and he was determined to reach the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouts of America Program. He chose beautifying the campus at McKinley by bringing back the native flora on the Ewa Wing side of A Building as his project. The project is dedicated to all the McKinley High School alumni veterans that served in the armed forces. Keeping motivated and recruiting volunteers was a challenge and he was rewarded on the day of the service project. The people who supported the project played a major factor in making the project come to life. Jordan says that it felt good to see work happening from start to finish, a memory he will always cherish, Jordan is attending Kapiolani Community College majoring in Business/Human Resource Management. He is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $1,250.

Tam Tran: Tam’s first year in the United States was when she was a junior at McKinley. She found the school to be very large compared to the one she attended in Vietnam. The English language was a challenge, making communication and comprehension of lectures difficult. Even though the student body was large and diversified she felt alone and when class projects involved group activity, she wasn’t able to help because of her lack of English skills. That experience made her determined to improve her English so she could communicate better in her new country. Tam is attending Kapiolani Community College where her major is Nursing. She is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $1,000.

Kohl Dylan Santos: Kohl Dylan was an involved student at McKinley. He was an athlete and also had a job as well as a hobby and says the thing about challenges is that a person must know, is that they would have to fail in order to succeed. Knowing that to fail is fine because it will help the person learn from their mistakes. Kohl Dylan says that juggling school, extracurricular activities and his job were stressful. For him it was all about time management, and he began to set goals for himself and put more time into his schoolwork. He says that he learned that if a person really just focuses on their goal, they can overcome their challenges. Kohl Dylan is attending Kapiolani Community College majoring in Environmental Science. He is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $1,000.

Dorine Laura Karwon: Dorine lives with her grandparents and her grandmother traveled a lot so Dorine and her grandfather were left to take care of the other family members. She felt overwhelmed with all of the housework and cooking that she did. When she was in elementary school, she got good grades and was able to keep up with her schoolwork, in high school because she helped at home so much her grades slipped backwards and she was disappointed in herself for not maintaining a higher GPA. When her grandmother returned home, things became more
normal and Dorine was able to devote more time to her studies. She says that she now knows how important her family is and also that spilled over into how well she did in school. This is a lesson that she treasures and says that when she has her own family, she will strive to make her home happy and productive. Dorine is attending Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington where her major is Business/Law. She is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $1,000.

**Kevin Tran:** Kevin migrated to Hawaii and found that the different culture and the new school system were challenging. But by far the most challenging obstacle was learning the English language. His classmates took speaking and understanding English for granted and Kevin tried hard to fit in. He tried hard in class and slowly made friends with classmates. One day he pushed aside his fears of being rejected and started joking with a small group of people, to his surprise and delight instead of ridiculing him they listened with genuine interest. That was a turning point for him and he made a vow that in the future he would step outside of his comfort zone and meet and talk with others. Kevin is attending Kapiolani Community College majoring in Education. He is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $1,000.

**Dat Nguyen:** In the summer of 2016 Dat and his mother moved from their native country to the United States. Dat says he was naïve to the fact that this transition would be difficult. Because of his ignorance, the initial process of integrations was really difficult and harsh. He didn’t realize that he was in fact making progress because it was done in small steps. When it dawned on him that he was indeed becoming accustomed to this new way of life he started setting small attainable goals for himself. Each time he achieved a goal he was motivated to try something else; this mindset was liberating for him and says that it will be with him for the rest of his life. Dat is attending Honolulu Community College where his major is Social Work. He is the recipient of a McKinley High School Foundation Scholarship in the amount of $1,000.

### Class of 1962

The McKinley Class of 1962 held a “Class of 1962 75th Birthday Lunch.” We wish them a very happy birthday and a sincere thank you, for encouraging their classmates to donate to the Foundation for the Class of 1962 Scholarship Fund. In addition, they also donated their residual funds from the luncheon to the Foundation. The Board of Directors are sincerely gratified by the support that the McKinley alumni give to the Foundation. The high cost of attending college is out of reach for some of our students and they are eternally grateful for the scholarships that the Foundation awards them. Awarding scholarships would not be possible without the many classes that hold reunions with the Foundation being the recipient of their generosity.

### Scholarship recipients on the Board of Directors

Four of the members of the Board of Directors are past recipients of scholarship awards. Appreciative of the financial assistance that they received from the Foundation, Elijah Yip Class of 1992, Huy Vo Class of 2001, Darryl Yim Class of 2006 and Rio Kwon Class of 2011, joined the Board of Directors because each of them recognized the impact that the Foundation had on their academic success. With the upward spiral of the cost of higher education, more now than ever, the financial assistance scholarships provide is needed. Many previous recipients contribute financially to the Foundation and have gone on to be successful, productive members of the community. We are proud of their accomplishments and are delighted we could be a part of their success. The Board of Directors is a hard-working group that strives to fulfill the founding members of the Board of Directors mission statement which is “to maximize the potential of each individual student to become a more responsible caring and contributing citizen.” We can, without a doubt, say that Elijah, Huy, Darryl and Rio truly exemplify this goal.
Once again, the National Honor Society, McKinley Chapter, held their Scoop Dee Doo fundraiser. They do this annually under the supervision of their faculty adviser Leilani Okuda. The intent of the fundraiser is to raise funds to be donated to the Foundation for scholarships. Not only is this a huge contribution to the Foundation, it is also an important lesson to the students. Giving back to the community is the backbone of organizations. When Dr. Richard Kosaki and Principal Stanley Seki, many years ago, envisioned a school-based Foundation to assist faculty and the school for worthy projects but also help to fund higher education for our McKinley graduates. Suffice it to say, that their vision has grown immensely over the past twenty plus years. They can be so proud of the fact that not only do the alumni support their vision but the students also embrace it and continue to with the encouragement of the outstanding faculty at McKinley. A huge mahalo to everyone who worked for the very successful 2019 Scoop Dee Doo.