

Catalino Tapia Scholarship Foundation

A Year-End Visual Report



- We were honored to provide 37 new scholarships this year.
- Celebrated 17 amazing students who walked across the stage and earned their degrees!
- For the second year in a row, we hosted monthly workshops to support and empower scholars, parents and community.

Wishing you a joyful holiday season and a New Year filled with health, happiness, and prosperity.

With gratitude and warm wishes,
The Catalino Tapia Scholarship Foundation Team



CATALINO TAPIA
SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

LETTER FROM CTSF FOUNDER

Reflections & Milestones

Dear Supporters and Scholars,

As we close another year, I find myself reflecting on our incredible journey. When I founded this organization, it began with a simple thought: "I need to do something to help more students get into college." Today, that spark has blossomed into a thriving legacy, made possible by your continued belief in our mission.

This year has been exceptionally difficult for our community, yet within these challenges, we found profound reasons for hope. On June 28, we celebrated 37 new scholarship recipients. I will never forget calling each scholar to deliver the news; the air was filled with laughter and tears of joy from students and parents alike. Hearing the relief in their voices reminded me exactly why we do this work. Each recipient carries a story of resilience and a dream now set in motion.

Our impact is best seen in the success of our scholars. This past May, I met five of our 17 recent graduates at UC Berkeley. These young leaders are now embarking on careers as nurses, engineers, researchers, and counselors. Looking ahead to Spring 2026, we have 24 more scholars on track to graduate! Many of them once felt higher education was out of reach; now, they stand on the doorstep of an incredible milestone. These success stories are made possible by our dedicated "village."

To our donors: you are the architects of these dreams, providing the peace of mind students need to focus on finals rather than finances.

To our sole employee, Yanet, our mentors, volunteers, and Board members: your daily dedication and stewardship are the heartbeat of this foundation.

To our students: You belong here. Never let doubt take over. Your voice and lived experiences are desperately needed in your chosen fields. You have an entire community standing beside you, cheering for your success every step of the way.

As we look toward our 20th year, I invite you to remain part of this journey. Together, we are transforming lives and strengthening our community. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for joining me in this labor of love.

Warm regards,

Catalino Tapia
Founder, Catalino Tapia Scholarship Foundation



ONCE A DREAM, NOW A REALITY

This year, we proudly honor 17 graduates transitioning from scholars into professionals.



Jada
B.A. Public Health
UC Berkeley



Vanisha
B.A. Communications & Economics.
UC Davis



Arturo
B.A. Sociology
UC Berkeley



Bianca
B.A. Political Science
San Jose State University



Marta
B.A. Communications
University of San Francisco



Allison
B.S. Nursing
University of San Francisco



Ani
B.S. Civil Engineering
UC Berkeley



Candelario
B.A. Interactive Biology
UC Berkeley



Yaritza
B.A. Political Economy
UC Berkeley



Bryan
A.A. Social Sciences
Laney College



Devin
B.S. Electrical Engineering
University of San Francisco



Juliana
B.S. Business Adm.
B.A. Data Science
UC Berkeley



Gildardo
B.A. Construction & Management
California State University
East Bay



Frida
B.A. Interdisciplinary Studies
UC Berkeley



Ana
B.A. Counseling Psychology;
Marriage & Family Therapy
University of San Francisco



Maria
B.S. Molecular & Cellular Biology
UC Berkeley



Gabriela
B.A. Nursing
San Jose State University

CTSF IMPACT AND STATS



Scholarships: 492 scholarships awarded since 2006, totaling \$1,057,575



Workshops: By the end of this cycle, we will have completed 87 total hours of bilingual workshops for our scholars, their parents, and now open to all in the community.



Technology Support: Distribution of tech cards, iPads, and ChromeBook laptops since 2016, totaling \$79, 250



Strong Roots Mentorship Program: 68 Scholars have benefited from this program since 2021



Tapia Family Award of Excellence has provided an additional \$1,000 to 21 scholars since 2015. This year, for 2025, we are excited to announce a significant increase in the award amount to \$2,000, bringing the total awarded for the year to \$23,000.

SPECIAL THANKS



In Memorium, Elise & Robert Sawyer Fund

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the late Mr. Bob Sawyer and Ellen Aldag-Sawyer, a longtime supporter and dear friends of the Catalino Tapia Scholarship Foundation. Mr. Sawyer's relationship with Catalino began years ago when he worked as his gardener. Even after Catalino's retirement, Mr. Sawyer remained a steadfast supporter of the foundation and its mission to break down barriers to higher education. His generosity was extraordinary—he gifted the foundation \$50,000 to support our scholars in their pursuit of academic and personal success. Today, Mr. Sawyer's legacy lives on through his family. His son, Steve, and daughter-in-law, Meritt, continue to honor his spirit of giving with their annual contributions to the foundation. We are forever grateful to the Sawyer family for their kindness, generosity, and belief in our mission. Their support has opened doors for countless students and will continue to shape brighter futures for years to come.



A SPECIAL MESSAGE TO OUR DONORS

To those who give: **you are the architects of these success stories.** Your contributions do more than pay for tuition; they provide the peace of mind a student needs to focus on their finals rather than their finances. You are telling these young leaders that their community believes in them. Because of you, 24 more families will watch their children walk across a graduation stage this spring. We are deeply grateful for your investment in their brilliance.

TO OUR STUDENTS: YOU BELONG HERE

We see your late nights, your sacrifices, and your unwavering grit. **Please, never let doubt take over.** On the days when the path feels steep, or you feel like an outsider, remember this: you have earned your place. You belong in those lecture halls, and your voice, your lived experience, and your perspective are not just welcomed—they are desperately needed in your chosen fields.

You are the reason we exist. Never forget that you have an entire community standing next to you, cheering for your success and ready to support you every step of the way. **Your journey is our journey.**



TO CTSF STAFF, VOLUNTEERS, MENTORS, AND BOARD MEMBERS

To Our Dedicated Leadership:

Our daily work is made possible by our sole employee, Yanet. As the heartbeat of CTSF, she ensures our vision becomes a reality every single day. I am profoundly grateful for her dedication and the compassion she shows to every scholar.

To our Mentors:

Thank you for being the steady hand, for sharing your knowledge, and for being the listening ear our students need. You provide the guidance that turns a scholarship into a degree, but most importantly, you help them believe in themselves and their own potential.

To our Volunteers:

Whether you helped at an event, supported the foundation during the scholarship selection process, worked behind the scenes, or presented a workshop for our students and their parents—your time has been a vital part of our success. Every hour you gave has been reflected in the many students' dreams and hopes.

To our Board Members:

Thank you for your steadfast vision and stewardship. You are the foundation that keeps our mission strong, ensuring that as we grow, our legacy continues to transform lives for years to come. Your leadership is the reason we can look forward to our 20th year with such confidence and hope.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

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