



FUTURE SACRAMENTO

PAVING THE PATH TO
COLLEGE SUCCESS

For many local students, college remains an unrealized dream because they lack the financial means, individual guidance and encouragement, as well as knowledge of how to navigate complex college applications and financial assistance paperwork.

Since 2007, Future Foundation of Sacramento has addressed these challenges by providing resources to overcome them for low-income, high-achieving students. A rigorous selection process throughout Sacramento-area high schools identifies 10th grade students who meet the program's high standards. The strongest candidates are chosen from about 300 applications each year.

"We select students at the end of the 10th grade to eliminate the fear of not knowing how to pay for college and encourage students to remain on track to college admission," says Elizabeth Marlow, Executive Director.

Selected students receive mentoring through high school and five years in college, and are awarded financial-need-based scholarships. In addition to sustainable scholarship funding, on-going mentoring and peer support makes the program unique.

"One of the most rewarding aspects of this program is seeing our students succeed through their own maturation process from high school through college graduation," says Michael Anderson, Future Sacramento Board

President. "We meet our candidates as 10th grade students during an in-person interview. We receive confirmation of the benefits of our mentoring and scholarship when we hear our students present their college experiences at our annual Grant Napear 'Fairway to the Future' golf tournament and other special meetings. It is remarkable to support these students for seven years, watching them become more effective communicators and achieve their degrees."

Backed by Future Sacramento's funding and guidance, and her parents' strong work ethic, Aime Millan (pictured above, center) will graduate from UC Davis this month. Aime's parents have humble backgrounds,



but taught that hard work prevails. “They demonstrated that achieving goals requires more than talent or luck – time dedicated and courage to take risks ultimately lead to an objective,” says Aime.

As a first-generation college student, though, Aime says, “This scholarship changed the way I saw higher education. What seemed unreachable was becoming reachable.” With guidance of Future Sacramento mentors and Elizabeth Marlow, she graduated from high school ranked in the top 10 of her class, had earned a weighted GPA of 4.0, and, feeling prepared for college, enrolled at UC Davis. Once at Davis, though, Aime struggled to find direction and pinpoint her goals, and wavered in her academic course. “This is common for first-generation college students,” she notes. “Our parents can’t guide us through education they didn’t receive and we lack awareness that asking for help doesn’t mean that we don’t belong in college.”

Five majors and only four years

later, Aime’s on the brink of completing her undergraduate studies, having brought her freshman year GPA of 1.8 up to a 3.0, and will graduate with a double major in International Relations and Spanish. “Future Sacramento enhanced my entire experience,” she confirms. “The scholarship took stress off my family economically, and showed me that more than just getting us into college, Future Sacramento is committed to helping us through college. Whether it was a phone call, an email, or a group meeting, Elizabeth and the Board of Directors always ensured we felt their full support.”

Future Sacramento welcomes volunteers. Donors are greatly needed to fund scholarships. “Future Sacramento makes the most efficient use of donated funds, ensuring all available resources are in place to help scholarship recipients through graduation,” concludes Marlow. “Please join us in helping more students attend and succeed in college.”



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