

2026-27 Renaissance Scholarship Awards

Renaissance Society of Sacramento State

by Susan McGinty, Co-Chair

Award highlights: \$332,000 awarded since 1993 | 142 students supported | 7 scholarships awarded this year | \$3,000 per scholarship

The Renaissance Scholarship Committee continues a tradition of supporting Sacramento State University students that was established in 1993 by two late members, Doug Fulton and Lou Weintraub.

Since then, the Renaissance Society has awarded \$332,000 in scholarships, benefiting 142 students. This year, after reviewing more than 120 applications, the committee awarded seven scholarships of \$3,000 each to an outstanding group of students.

Six of the seven recipients signed a waiver permitting the university to share their information with the Renaissance Society. One student chose to remain anonymous for personal safety reasons, and the committee is honoring that request for privacy.

The Scholarship Committee honored the recipients at a special luncheon and also recognized them at the Annual Meeting on May 8.

Included in this PDF: the 2026-27 award overview, recipient profiles, recipient photos from the Recorder, and the Scholarship Committee thank-you note.



**2026-27
Scholarship
Awards**

7 awards
\$3,000 each
6 shared stories

Photos included in the June 2026 Recorder: Corrie Foutz, Douglas Ryan Huston, Ian Wright, Mayumi Ablang, and Jacqueline Villalobos. Harmony Dougherty and one anonymous recipient are honored in the article text.

Recipient Profiles

From the College of Social Science and Interdisciplinary Studies:

Harmony Dougherty

Harmony is a junior pursuing a degree in Psychology and hopes to become a clinical psychologist. She is a single mother who left a separatist cult and is now rebuilding a life for herself and her daughter. She has excelled academically and expressed deep gratitude for the financial support provided by the Renaissance Society. She described the award as both an honor and a source of motivation to continue striving for excellence.



Corrie Foutz

Corrie is another single mother who recently transferred from Sacramento City College, where she initially pursued a degree in Sociology. She has since changed her major to Social Work and will now continue her studies in the College of Health and Human Services. Although she was unable to attend the luncheon because she was celebrating her child's eighth-grade graduation, she was able to join us at the Annual Meeting and the reception that followed. She is deeply grateful for the scholarship's support, and she shared that the Renaissance Society's vote of confidence has uplifted her and renewed her hope for her academic journey.

From the College of Engineering and Computer Science:



Douglas Ryan Huston

Ryan is a veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan who will graduate this spring with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and begin a master's program in Computer Engineering in the fall. Married with three children, he has balanced supporting his young family with the demands of rigorous academic coursework. He has demonstrated exceptional time management and a strong work ethic, and we are confident he will continue to do great things as he masters the complex skills required to excel in his field.



Ian Wright

Ian is a recent veteran pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science. We had the opportunity to meet Ian and his wife at the luncheon, and it was clear that this scholarship is both well-deserved and deeply appreciated.

From the College of Health and Human Services:



Mayumi Ablang

Mayumi is originally from the Philippines and is pursuing her Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She currently works as a nurse and is expanding her skills through the baccalaureate program at Sac State. She is committed to providing compassionate, respectful care, especially for older adults, and she has been a gracious and appreciative recipient of this award.



Jacqueline Villalobos

Jackie is a second-year student in Sacramento State University's three-year Doctor of Physical Therapy program. She is a first-generation college student whose immigrant parents helped inspire her strong belief in the transformative power of education. She is especially dedicated to working with older adults, promoting independence, dignity, and quality of life throughout the aging process. Jacqueline hopes to serve diverse and underserved communities, empowering her patients to move safely and with confidence. She expressed heartfelt gratitude for the recognition from the Renaissance Society and for the membership's generous support.

Scholarship Committee Thanks

The Scholarship Committee thanks its members - Susan Backenhoff, Laurye Brownfield, Barbara Davis-Lyman, Marilyn Cantrell, Gordon Garcia, Janet Heath, Jackie Lamb, Clare Payne, Bob Schlag, and Virginia Sturdevant - for their hard work in reviewing the applications.

A special thank-you also goes to Carol Barake, who stepped in to assist the committee with the review process when a couple of members were unable to participate this year.

The committee also thanks all members of the Renaissance Society for their generous contributions to the Scholarship Fund. Five of the seven scholarships are now fully endowed, meaning they will continue in perpetuity even if another dollar is not raised. The goal is to fully endow all seven scholarships and then add more. As everyone on the committee can attest, there were many deserving applicants, and with the continued support of members, these opportunities can expand in the future.

With the continued support of Renaissance Society members, the Scholarship Committee hopes to expand opportunities for even more deserving Sac State students in the future.