



City of Commerce

Scholarship Program



Council Message

On behalf of the City Council of the City of Commerce, we are honored to recognize the academic achievements of our next generation of leaders. Together with our generous community partners, we are able to provide these bright and ambitious Commerce residents with the financial and moral support needed as they enter the hallowed halls of academia.

We are proud of each scholar who has applied and look forward to all of the positive contributions they will make to our society. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said “The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education.” We certainly hope that our Commerce scholars not only grow as students, but also grow as well-rounded human beings.

We congratulate you on continuing your education and pursuing your academic goals. Remember that you have the City of Commerce here to support you in your journey into higher education. Good Luck!

*Ivan Altamirano
Mayor*

City Council



*Ivan Altamirano
Mayor*



*Oralia Y. Rebollo
Mayor Pro Tem*



*Hugo A. Argumedo
Councilmember*



*Leonard Mendoza
Councilmember*



*John Soria
Councilmember*

Education Commission

*O*n behalf of the Education Commission we are pleased to recognize the academic achievements of 67 students who are pursuing their higher education.

The hard-work, perseverance, and dedication of these students has helped them reach this point in their academic journey. Unfortunately, diligence is not always enough. As the cost of college tuition rises, it is our deep and sincere hope that this scholarship helps these students achieve their academic goals by minimizing the financial obstacles that prevent so many from attending college.

The Commerce Scholarship Program was established in 1980 to help residents pursue a higher education. This program epitomizes the value our city places on education and has helped fund the college education of hundreds of residents.

To our donors, we are eternally grateful for your compassion and generosity. The 2020 Commerce Scholarship would not be the success it is without your critical financial support. We could not do this without you.

We also would like to acknowledge all of the work that our dedicated Library staff puts into making this scholarship programs a success year after year.

Lastly, we would like to thank the City Council for their continued support of this invaluable program.

Congratulations again to the scholarship recipients and their families!

Director of Library Services

*C*ongratulations to the 2020 City of Commerce Scholarship awardees! While this is a unique year that has presented a number of challenges, your decision to continue your education and to pursue your dreams is inspiring and I applaud you. *Gracias a todos los padres por su apoyo, palabras de ánimo y el gran amor por sus familias y comunidad. How wonderful for your parents, friends and families to see you attain a college degree!*

To all those, that donated this year, my deepest respect and gratitude. In this unprecedented year of uncertainty and challenges, you stepped up and gave generously. It is only through your generosity that this year 67 Commerce residents will receive a scholarship.

I wish you, your families and your businesses good health and much success. I truly believe the best is yet to come.

Remember, the Commerce Library is here to support your learning at our website, www.cocpl.org. There you will find many helpful resources and of course, we look forward to helping you in the Library in the future.

In closing, I am reminded of the words of Mark Twain, “The secret of getting ahead is to get started.” Let this moment mark the beginning of a journey of learning and growing.

Go get your dreams!

Beatriz Sarmiento, Director of Library Services



History of the City of Commerce Scholarship Program

The City of Commerce Scholarship Program began in 1980. In its earliest years, donations were given from local civic organizations and service clubs. Scholarships ranged from \$50-\$300. The program proved to be very successful and well received. Before long, contributions began coming in from the business community, as well as from civic groups. Scholarships increased both in the size of the award and in the number given. In 2020, scholarships ranging from \$200-\$3125 will be awarded to 67 Commerce residents.

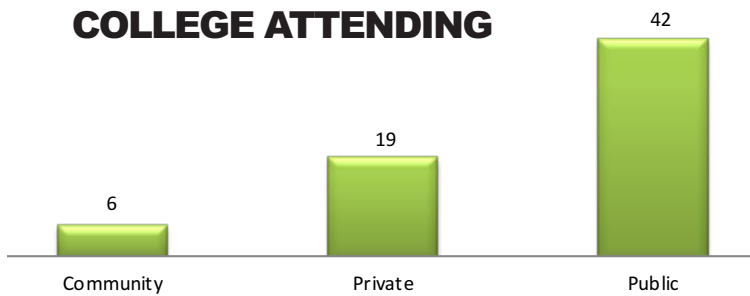
The Commerce City Council is dedicated to promoting education in the community and is happy to help make a college education more available to its residents. Statistics from the National Center for Education indicate in 2016 the median earnings of young adults with a master's or higher degree were \$64,100, some 28 percent higher than those of young adults with a bachelor's degree (\$50,000). In the same year, the median earnings of young adults with a bachelor's degree were 57 percent higher than those of young adult high school completers (\$31,800).

Winners... at a Glance

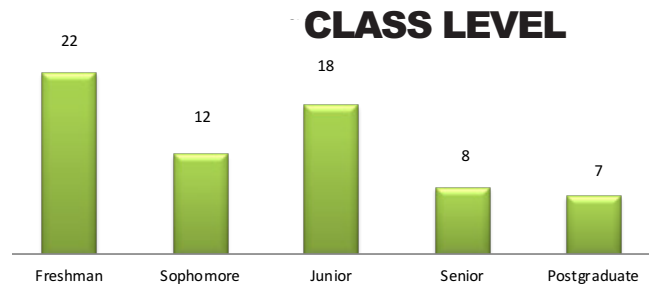
Sixty-seven Commerce residents were awarded scholarships for the year 2020. They represent a wide array of backgrounds, interests, and talents. They represent our heritage and give us reason to be proud. They have many experiences and dreams set before them. Collectively, they represent our future.

"Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today."
Malcolm X

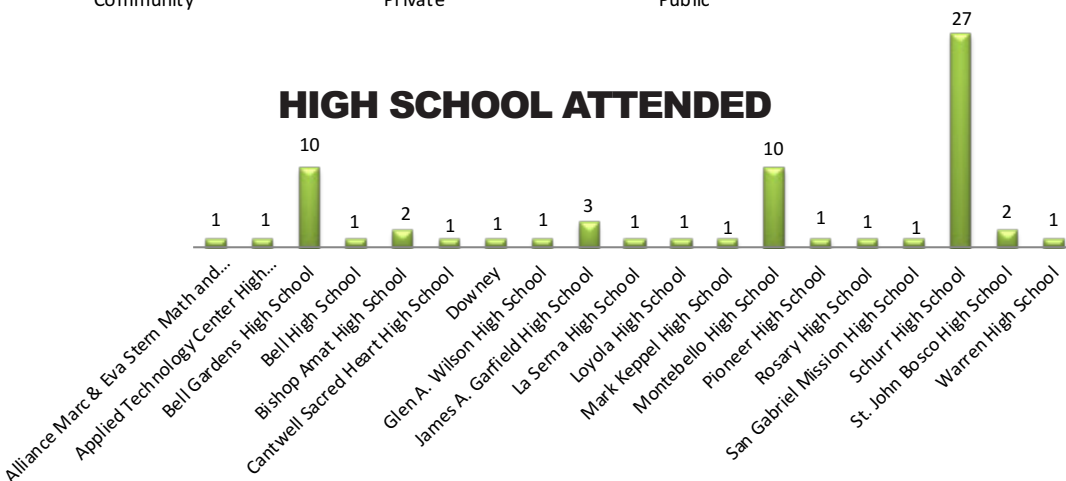
COLLEGE ATTENDING



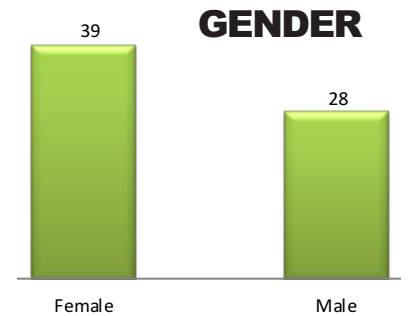
CLASS LEVEL



HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED



GENDER



2020 City of Commerce Scholarship Program Scholars



THE COMMERCE
CASINO & HOTEL

Commerce Casino & Hotel Scholars



Jennifer P. Reyes
Whittier College
Freshman
Political Science
Commerce Casino Scholar
\$3,125



Janet J. Yañez
Alliant International University, California
Postgraduate
Clinical Psychology
Commerce Casino Scholar
\$2,000

TransTech Scholar



Kevin R. Espinoza
University of California, Berkeley
Freshman
Biology
Trans Tech Scholar
\$3,125

Harvey Capital Scholar



Erik E. Herrera
University of California, Berkeley
Postgraduate
Mathematics
Harvey Capital Scholar
\$2,000

2020 City of Commerce Scholarship Program Recipients



Allyssa A. Rodarte
Biola University
Sophomore
Psychology
\$700



Dominic N. Hernandez
California Baptist University
Freshman
Nursing
\$500



Steven W. Ballinger
California State Polytechnic
University, Pomona
Junior
Landscape Architecture
\$1,500



Emmanuel A. Gomez
California State Polytechnic
University, Pomona
Sophomore
Nutrition
\$950



Walter E. Gomez
California State Polytechnic
University, Pomona
Freshman
Criminology
\$750



Nadia A. Urbina Villacorta
California State Polytechnic
University, Pomona
Junior
Communication
\$1,200



Ariana Sainz
California State University,
Channel Islands
Junior
History
\$700



Jayleen B. Hernandez
California State University,
Dominguez Hills
Freshman
Psychology
\$500



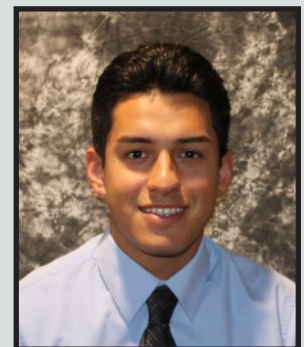
Celeste M. Lugo
California State University, Fullerton
Freshman
Nursing
\$750



Sabrina Quintero
California State University, Fullerton
Junior
Child and Adolescent Studies
\$550



Alexander J. Frias
California State University,
Long Beach
Freshman
Nursing
\$1,250



Matthew J. Gomez
California State University,
Long Beach
Senior
Business
\$200

2020 City of Commerce Scholarship Program Recipients



Jovanny Mata
California State University,
Long Beach
Senior
Physical Education
\$550



Crystal M. Nerio
California State University,
Long Beach
Postgraduate
Social Work
\$1,500



Marisela Oliva Silva
California State University,
Long Beach
Junior
Kinesiology
\$700



Mayra Olivas Silva
California State University,
Long Beach
Postgraduate
Medicine
\$1,000



Sarah C. Shaddox
California State University,
Long Beach
Sophomore
Nursing
\$950



Laryssa A. Gomez
California State University,
Los Angeles
Freshman
Business Administration
\$1,500



Eva D. Huerta
California State University,
Los Angeles
Freshman
Business Administration
\$500



Melissa Jimenez Prieto
California State University,
Dominguez Hills
Freshman
Child Development
\$750



Ricardo J. Ortiz
California State University,
Los Angeles
Sophomore
TV, Film and Media
\$450



Daija N. Pinal-Varela
California State University,
Los Angeles
Sophomore
Mechanical Engineering
\$950



Benny A. Segura
California State University,
Los Angeles
Postgraduate
Mechanical Engineering
\$450



Esahu Villalvazo
California State University,
Los Angeles
Freshman
Criminal Justice
\$250

2020 City of Commerce Scholarship Program Recipients



Jose M. Salas
California University, Northridge
Junior
Art Animation
\$1,200



Nayeli K. Cisneros
Cerritos College
Sophomore
Biology
\$500



Gabrielle Ortega
Cerritos College
Senior
Hospitality Management
\$1,000



Tony T. Trandafir
Dickinson College
Freshman
Law/Environmental Studies
\$1,000



Wilyn M. Canjura
East Los Angeles College
Sophomore
Nursing
\$250



Maria Y. Martinez
East Los Angeles College
Junior
Biology
\$750



Xochitl Baltazar
Grand Canyon University
Sophomore
Speech Pathologist
\$550



John E. Castaneda
Grand Canyon University
Senior
Management
\$1,200



Desirae B. Kester
Grand Canyon University
Freshman
Education
\$1,000



Cassandra Gama
Humboldt State University
Junior
Education
\$450



Danielle Anda Hernandez
Iona College
Senior
Marketing
\$950



Marcos C. Mendoza
Marquette University
Senior
Criminology and Law
\$700

2020 City of Commerce Scholarship Program Recipients



Benjamin J. Garza
Mount San Antonio College
Sophomore
Political Science
\$500



Karen Y. Rincon
Rio Hondo College
Freshman
Undecided
\$500



Chris S. Griego, Jr.
Saint Mary's College, Moraga,
California
Junior
Communications
\$700



Lauren C. Griego
San Jose State University
Freshman
Teaching
\$500



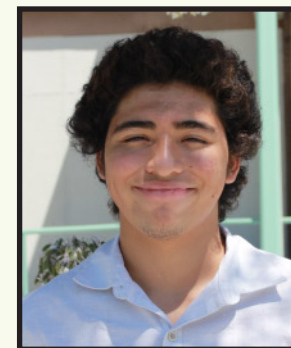
Victoria L. Escobar
San Francisco State University
Freshman
Teaching
\$1,000



Veronica Torres
Southern Oregon University
Junior
Psychology
\$950



Amanda Maldonado
University of California, Davis
Freshman
Biology
\$1,250



Juan C. Mena, Jr.
University of California, Davis
Freshman
Mechanical Engineering
\$1,000



Anali Cabrera
University of California, Los Angeles
Junior
Film and Television Production
\$1,500



Smyrna Caraveo
University of California, Los Angeles
Junior
Public Affairs
\$2,000



Luis A. Frias
University of California, Los Angeles
Sophomore
Computer Science
\$1,200



Tatiana J. Duckworth
University of California, Los Angeles
Junior
Philosophy/Law
\$1,500

2020 City of Commerce Scholarship Program Recipients



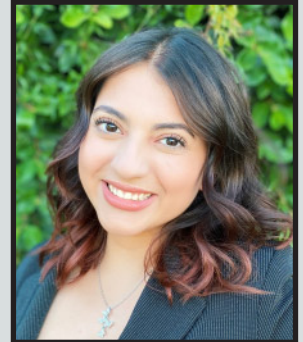
Angel Mendoza
University of California, Los Angeles
Freshman
Business Economics
\$1,500



Daisy S. Rivera
University of California, Los Angeles
Junior
Business
\$700



Demian Sanchez Lopez
University of California, Riverside
Junior
Psychology
\$550



Bethany N. Sanchez
University of California,
Santa Barbara
Freshman
Mathematics
\$750



Jayda L. Silva
University of California,
Santa Barbara
Freshman
Biology
\$1,500



Josselyne G. Yatco
University of California,
Santa Barbara
Senior
Communication
\$950



Javier De Santiago, Jr.
University of La Verne
Senior
Biology
\$2,000



Miguel A. Torres
University of Oregon
Junior
Sociology
\$950



Diane Caraveo
University of Southern California
Postgraduate
Education
\$1,000



Jesus J. Munoz
University of Southern California
Postgraduate
Counseling
\$1,000



Christina N. Sanchez
University of Southern California
Postgraduate
Counseling
\$750



Kevin D. Roach
Wagner College
Sophomore
Psychology
\$950

2020 City of Commerce Scholarship Program Recipients



Michelle Perez
Whittier College
Sophomore
Child Development
\$950



Ricardo Reyes, Jr.
Whittier College
Junior
Biology
\$200



Rudy Reyes
Whittier College
Freshman
Optometry
\$250

*Our special thanks to this year's Interview Panel and Appeals Board
for their time and dedication to this year's scholarship program.*

Interview Panel



Jamie M. Daisey
Librarian
City of Commerce Public Library



Brigitte Preciado
Assistant Director of Student Engagement
Scripps College



Jenny Galvez
Faculty Director
LACCD Dolores Huerta Labor Institute

Appeals Board

Barbara Martine
President
Datapage Inc.

Marini Lamoureux
Educational Specialist
Downey Unified School District

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Commerce, 90040*

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Commerce, 90040
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Los Angeles, 90023
\$1,000*



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Commerce, CA 90040
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City of Commerce
\$500*



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\$500*

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Rudy Reyes
Whittier College
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Special Acknowledgement

If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to the City of Commerce Scholarship Program or if you would like more information, contact the:

*City of Commerce Public Library
READs Center*

*5655 Jillson Street, Commerce, California 90040
(323) 722-6660 ext. 2823
cocpl.org*

City of Commerce Public Library Literacy READs Staff

*Evelyn Diaz
Literacy Manager*

*Susana G. Rosales
Senior Library Assistant*



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2020 City of Commerce Scholarship

The City of Commerce is proud to recognize the following donors for their generous contributions to the Commerce Scholarship Program.

\$10,000

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\$1,500

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\$1,288

Kim Seng Company

\$1,000

AMVAC Chemical Corporation

\$750

LK Packaging

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American Shower Door Corporation

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Supersonic

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Nellie M. Zepeda

\$100

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Commerce Hotel Casino

A special Thank You to the Commerce Hotel & Casino, whose combined contribution throughout the years has exceeded 1 million dollars.