

A Few Diablo Valley College Students Who Received RSF Scholarships

Rossmoor Scholarship Foundations (RSF) trustees learn a lot from student applications. Here are the three stories from the nine Diablo Valley College students who received RSF scholarships this year.

“I am the daughter of immigrants, a first-generation college student, living as the eldest daughter of four in a Hispanic household.” Because both her parents did not speak English and both worked fulltime to make ends meet, Xintli Rivera Raygoza wrote in her 2024 application, she not only translated for them but also became “the mother figure to my three siblings, and the one who takes charge in many situations.” Although at an early age she was diagnosed as having an auditory/visual processing disorder and a high-functioning anxiety, she fought through them to obtain high grades in high school. Rivera Raygoza is now a junior at UC-Berkeley, working to become a high school counselor.

“When I was 18 years old, I got in a car accident. It was a life-threatening accident with numerous injuries, and my family was told I may have loss of brain function,” wrote Corrin Kruse in her application. Not only was “my recovery long and unforgettable,” it also caused her to postpone her higher education several times in the subsequent decade. But, she noted proudly, “I am persistent, some may even say stubborn.” Kruse is currently a junior at San Jose State University pursuing a master’s degree in dietetics..

“My parents immigrated to this country of dreams from Mexico. They came in search of a brighter future for their children,” wrote Jorge Hernandez. Bullied as a child, he struggled with several insecurities throughout high school. Upon entering DVC, however, he joined several student organizations, one of which took him to Washington, D.C. to advocate for undocumented students’ rights. Hernandez is currently a junior at San Diego State University, majoring in business administration.

Over 65 percent of DVC’s student body identifies as other than White Non-Hispanic. Approximately 40 percent of DVC’s student body identifies as belonging to a minority group underrepresented in the California college and university systems; 29 percent are Hispanic, six percent Filipino, and five percent African American.

Shari Keller, a 30-year veteran college student financial aid counselor with a bubbly personality, points out that not only does DVC have a large population of non-traditional students (age 25 or older), but this community college leads the state in transfers to UC Berkeley, UC Davis, and UC Merced. In 2021-22, for example, 2,334 DVC students transferred to four-year institutions, and of those, 1,954 enrolled at California colleges and universities.

Keller fell in love with DVC precisely because of its commitment to diversity and inclusion. “Without the kind of scholarships offered by organizations like the Rossmoor Scholarship Foundation, many of these students would be unable to continue their higher education,” she said. “It’s incredibly rewarding to see how even one scholarship can make a difference in their lives, many of whom are first-generation students.”

Rossmoorians can help other students with stories like Rivera Raygoza, Kruse, and Hernandez achieve their higher education dreams through donations. All donations are gratefully accepted, and all of the money goes directly into scholarships.

Submitted by Wayne A. Wiegand, RSF Trustee