



**Filipino-American Cultural Organization
(FACO)**

**P.O. Box 6276
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<http://www.filamcultural.com>

2019 Scholarship Winners

**1st - \$ 1,500 Presented by Scholarship Co-Chair Ms. Wendy Abon-Thrower
Allen Edward Tordecillas
Oceanside High School**



Allen is an honors student at Oceanside High School. He will be graduating as his class's Valedictorian with a **4.37 Academic GPA**. Allen is the president of the OHS National Honor Society, the first chair viola of his school's orchestra, Varsity captain of the academic league team, and co-President of the Gender Sexuality Alliance. He is also a cheerleader at Oceanside High School. Allen dedicates his time to helping his community by being a gay rights activist via his GSA club and altar serving at Saint Mary's Catholic Church since he was 8. Furthermore, under his leadership, his school's National Honor Society also raised \$2000 for the American Cancer Society. He was given the title of AP Scholar with Distinction by the College Board, awarded the Harvard Club Prize Book Award, and is a Quest Bridge National College match Finalist. Allen is a dedicated, passionate, and motivated student who attributes much of his accomplishments to his loving parents and grandparents. Allen Tordecillas will be attending **Stanford University this fall to study Psychology**. He will also be cheering on the Stanford football team as a Stanford Cheerleader.

**2nd - \$ 1,200 Presented by: Scholarship Chair Ms. Nelly Taguba
Gabby Louise V. Decano
Rancho Bernardo High School**



Gabby Louise Decano was born in Manila, Philippines, 18 years ago. She is graduating from Rancho Bernardo High School on June 13th of this year. She plans to enroll at **UCSD to obtain a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing**, although eventually, she aims at becoming a Physician Assistant or a Nurse Practitioner. Gabby has a **GPA of 4.19**. She was a recipient of Silver Star Award, AP Scholar Award and Certificate of Competency in Career and Technical Education Training of Bio-Medical Technology 1-2.

She has been the Chair of RBHS Key Club for the last 3 years and tutored in Humanities Class for 2 years. She has worked as a Peer Counselor, Junior Counselor for the Anatomy and Chemistry Classes at the UCSD Tec Trek STEM Camp and plans to return this summer as a Senior Counselor. She has volunteered 251 hours at the Sharp Memorial Hospital and Sharp Mary Birch Hospital for Women and their Newborn babies.

Aligned with her Community-related interests, Gabby would like to participate in a Medical Mission to the Philippines where she would be able to “give back to her roots”.

3rd - \$ 1,000 Presented by: Ms. Genevieve Wunder
Kaelin Marie Zablan
Sage Creek High School



Kaelin Marie Zablan is 18 Years old and a graduating student at Sage Creek High School with a **GPA of 4.12** throughout high school. She is a Life Time Member of the California Scholarship Federation because of her honor roll status. Kaelin is very involved in other school activities such as announcer for her high school basketball varsity team, working on a mural at Rady Children's Hospital and assisting the teacher in tutoring students in Spanish. She will be attending **Arizona State University, majoring in Mechanical Engineering.**

Kaelin is held in high regarded by her teachers receiving such comments as:

- 1. Kaelin is a hard-working, intelligent and motivated student who is sure to thrive in an honors program in college. She will be a great asset to any university program.*
- 2. Kaelin is a model female student interested in the STEAM fields. Successful but still able to assist her friends and classmates also be successful.*
- 3. Kaelin is a respectful, honest and all around great young lady. A student with sheer determination.*

It is with a great pleasure to be included in giving Kaelin Marie Zablan this scholarship from the Fil-Am Cultural Organization.

4th - \$ 800 – Presented by: Ms. Imelda Agtarap
Joshua V. Santiago
Bonsall High School



It is rare to find such a young talent to show the balance of Leadership, Scholastic Performance, and Dedication to his Community. Joshua Santiago is one of those exceptional Scholar Student. Not only is his phenomenal G.P.A. avg. of **4.32** impressive, when he graduated from Bonsall H.S. he had one of the most highest credits of 360 completed, even when only 230 is required to graduate. Topping over 130 more credits than most students. He has been the Vice President of the Interact Club, Treasurer of the Legion Gazette, Honors Club Secretary, and Senior Student Council Secretary. He is the Fallbrook Food Pantry Ambassador for Bonsall H.S. and after volunteering for the Red Cross he partnered with them and single-handedly organized Bonsall's H.S. first and second blood drive as part of his Senior Project. As soon as he figured out that Medicine would be his future career, he threw his weight into the field by attending College Courses during the summers at Palomar College all 4 years. Between all he does for his school and community he also still manages to find time to work a part-time job at Target. Where others students might give up, Joshua persist and excels. He would like to further his education **and major in General Biology and get a Degree in the Medical Field at UCSD.**

**5th - \$ 500 – Presented by: Co-Chair Ms. Wendy Abon-Thrower
Francene A. Villanueva
San Marcos High School**



Francene Villanueva is a well-rounded student from San Marcos High School and will be graduating with Silver Honors Roll this year. Gabby has a **GPA of 4.26**. As a student, she has challenged herself with 10+ honors/AP classes, has joined National Honors Society, and has been given AP Scholar with Distinction. Outside of her classes, she has competed on her school's tennis team, served as a captain on the dance team, served as a secretary in Key Club, and guided lower classmen through Link Crew. Francene shows keen curiosity and excitement for the sciences and a passion for working and connecting with others. When she is not working, Francene can be found reading, hanging out with friends, or doing physical exercise. In the upcoming fall, she will be **attending CSU: Long Beach as a Pre-Nursing Major.**"