



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

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<http://www.filamcultural.com>

2020 Scholarship Winners

1st - \$ 1,500 Presented by Scholarship Co-Chair Ms. Wendy Thrower

Hayden Nightingale
Vista High School



Hayden Nightingale graduated from Vista High School with both academic and athletic honors, with a 4.17 Academic GPA. Hayden is a four- year, two sport (water polo and swim) varsity athlete, team captain as well as a co-president of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes Club. He also had the opportunity to play on the USA Water Polo National Team. Hayden spends his time playing water polo, surfing, and creating crafts. Hayden takes pride in creating surfboards and hand planes that are used to enjoy the ocean. His drive and entrepreneurial skills led him to start his own small business of shaping and selling surfboards in which he uses recycled materials. Hayden is a very hard-working,

motivated, and ambitious young man. Hayden would like to thank his Lord Jesus Christ and his parents for their constant love and support. Hayden Nightingale will be attending **UCLA** in the fall to study Biology and later pursue a career in Orthopedics and Sports medicine. He hopes to be a part of a team of doctors who provide medical attention to underserved communities. He will also be playing water polo on the UCLA Men's Water Polo team.

2nd - \$ 1,200 Presented by: Scholarship Co-Chair Ms. Wendy Thrower

Rissa Piland
Mission Vista High School



Rissa has Piland graduated with honors from Mission Vista High School with a 4.25 academic GPA. She has participated in various honors clubs. She enjoys participating in community service and supporting Fil Am events and currently a member of FACO Tagalog class along with other Asian countries. Rissa is pursuing higher education, to become a Nurse and her ultimate goal to become naturopathic doctor and have her own practice. She hopes to educate her future patients about their health, lifestyle choices, and about the health of the environment.

3rd - \$ 1,000 Presented by: Ms. Imelda Agtarap

Kainanai Tacazon
Guajome Park Academy



Kainani Tacazon recently graduated from Guajome Park Academy and will be attending **Chapman University** in the fall. She will be majoring in Environmental Science and Policy. She wants to thank everyone who has supported her throughout her high school career and especially FACO for giving her the opportunity to continue her education. She is excited to begin her new journey in college and cannot wait to research towards finding ways to better the environment and decrease climate change. A lot of what our environment is facing is due to climate change. An increase in carbon dioxide levels is causing not only a buildup of carbonic acid in the ocean causing ocean acidification, but also destructing nature's elements. So many countries are already suffering the consequences of climate change, like malnutrition. By studying Environmental Science and Policy at Chapman University, she will have more opportunities to research and grow a better understanding of how we can benefit the Earth rather than harm it. This scholarship will allow Kainani to become a part of environmental change.

4th - \$ 800 – Presented by: Ms. Miriam Day

Kai Catapang
Mission Vista High School



Kai is 18 years old and a graduate of Mission Vista High School. He has a GPA of 4.10. Kai would like to major in economics and achieve a career in government. He is known to be a fierce opponent in Speech and Debate competition and has an unusual talent to communicate effectively. He has shown his mentoring and leadership skills in the Speech and Debate Team. His teacher described him to be an innovator in his field of economy and international relations. Kai received numerous awards. To name a few, he was selected as a member of the Mission Vista High School Chapter of the National Honor Society. He received an AP Scholar Award, PTSA Award of excellence and was First Place in the Rotary 4-way Test Speech Contest. In addition to these accomplishments, Kai is the founder of the first Home Economics Club in his school. He was also chosen as the Senate Representative of Mission Vista High School.

5th - \$ 500 – Presented by: Ms. Imelda Agtarap

Shaelyn Solio
Mission Vista High School



Shaelynn Solio graduated with honors from Mission Vista High School with a 4.2 GPA. She is a Lifetime Member of the California Scholarship Federation and National Honor Society. She was recognized as a Project Lead The Way Scholar for completion of the Project Lead The Way Biomedical Pathway; a series of four classes focused on human physiology and medicine. She was Co-President of the Steel Drum Club and a member of Mission Vista’s Steel Drum Ensemble, performing in over 25 concerts. Shaelynn enjoys interacting and working with others, especially children. She spent over 450 hours mentoring children and teens through Link Crew, Kids Unleashed, the YMCA, and Boys and Girls Club. She has volunteered over 500 hours as a Core Team Leader and youth group member at Mission San Luis Rey Parish. She also worked as a lifeguard

at Legoland Waterpark last summer.

Shaelynn has a passion for healthcare and a desire to help people in need. She participated in healthcare service projects through Health Occupations Students of America and participated in medical programs at Rady Children’s Hospital. She also volunteered on Tri-City Medical Center’s Maternal Postpartum Floor. Shaelynn will be attending **Gonzaga University** this fall, majoring in Nursing. She wants to be a travel nurse for a few years before going to graduate school. Her long-term goal is to become a pediatric Nurse Practitioner working in a clinic to build long term relationships with patients and their families.

6th - \$ 300 – Presented by: Ms. Miriam Day

Alysa Sotto
Mission Vista High School



Alysa has graduated from Mission Vista High School with a 4.25 GPA. She has participated in various honors clubs, such as California Scholarship Federation and National Honors Society. She enjoys participating in community service through Key Club and Interact Club, which she was the Vice President of for two years. She also spent all four as Secretary for Asian Pacific Student Union, learning about Filipino culture along with other Asian countries. Alysa is pursuing higher education at the University of California at Irvine as a Biological Sciences major on a Pre-Med course. She plans on continuing to participate in community service and join clubs that will make her college experience worthwhile.