

Lamp of Learning ANNUAL REPORT



2023

+95%
College
graduation
rate

100%
of donations
go to
scholarships

45%
of our
students go
on to post-
grad work

LAMP OF LEARNING IS A 501(C)(3) ORGANIZATION:



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CHAIR'S STATEMENT

Dear Supporters,

For years, Lamp of Learning has been my passion project, and the impact we are making extends far beyond merely assisting students with college expenses. Our Lamp of Learning program goes above and beyond the traditional scholarship model, empowering recipients in ways that surpass the norm. While numerous scholarships exist and provide financial aid to students, they are often awarded too late to have a significant impact. That's where our program sets itself apart.

Granting a scholarship to a high school senior too late for them to know their options before they apply to universities does little to empower them. Most scholarships are bestowed after the student has already selected and applied to universities or committed to a specific school.

While these awards certainly help, Lamp of Learning takes a proactive approach by empowering students in their Junior year, thus providing them with the best possible chance for success.

Our program interviews scholarship candidates at the end of their junior year of high school, a pivotal moment in their lives when they begin to consider university options. Many of our students have attested to the positive influence these interviews have on their college preparation. The opportunity to practice interview skills holds immense value and the experience of facing a panel of business leaders is both empowering and intimidating. When these influential figures look at our students and say, "We believe in you and support your journey," the students can envision a brighter future.

At its core, Lamp of Learning is a mentoring program. Over the past few years, we have worked diligently to expand its scope. The junior year of high school is a significant milestone for students, and I am delighted to announce that Lamp of Learning has developed a new college planning boot camp specifically designed for high school juniors. In April of 2023, we offered a one-day workshop for all Lamp of Learning scholarship applicants. This program provided essential skills and training, focusing on guiding first-generation students through the process of college selection, financial matters, interviews, and emotional readiness for this monumental step in their lives.

By incorporating this new program into our existing student and business mentoring initiatives, we are further fortifying our commitment to support these bright and determined youth. We firmly believe that this program has the potential to make a significant difference in the lives of the next generation, equipping them with tools they would not otherwise have access to. These are tools that many of us often take for granted. I invite you to join me in supporting Lamp of Learning as we embark on this next step towards empowering and inspiring future generations.

Your unwavering support is deeply appreciated.

Warm regards,

Paul Bergman

Chair, Lamp of Learning



**Education is the most powerful weapon
which you can use to change the world.**

Nelson Mandela

Philanthropy is not about money, it's about feeling the pain of others and caring enough about their needs to help.

Timothy Pina
Writer and Human Rights Activist

TO OUR DONORS

Thank you!

A different approach to scholarships

“Many high achieving, low-income students don’t apply but that’s not because they don’t exist.”, Caroline Hoxby from Stanford’s Hoover Institute says. “They simply aren’t applying to the most selective schools because of the perception of higher costs.”

-Caroline Hoxby, Stanford University



The Lamp of Learning college scholarship program stands out from other scholarship programs because of its significant impact, which can be attributed to several key factors. First, our program takes a proactive approach by engaging students at an early stage in the college application process, allowing us to make a meaningful difference in their lives. Unlike most scholarship programs that come into play after crucial decisions have already been made. Our approach ensures that deserving students receive the support they need from the outset.

The remarkable success of the Lamp of Learning can be attributed to another crucial factor: the caliber of students we support. To achieve this, we have forged a partnership with the renowned AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determinism) program, operating locally in San Diego and recognized internationally. Enrolling and graduating from AVID is a requirement for the students we support, ensuring that they possess the necessary skills and potential for excellence to succeed in college.

While we take pride in the achievements of our scholars, we recognize that their success is rooted in the potential they already demonstrate. Our rigorous selection process focuses on identifying students who exhibit the drive and determination to excel in higher education, but are hindered by financial constraints. By carefully selecting such individuals, we can ensure an exceptional degree of completion rate among our scholars.

What does this mean for you? Your donations to the Lamp of Learning are being utilized effectively and efficiently. We can guarantee that 100% of your contribution will be directed towards providing scholarships for deserving students. Moreover, these scholarships will be awarded to individuals who have the capacity to make the most of your investment, ensuring that your generosity yields substantial and meaningful results in their lives.

\$18K
IN ANNUAL AWARDS

OUR AWARDS HELP CHANGE LIVES



For College
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 0 0 0 1

Lamp of Learning
Authorized Signature

SUPPORTING SUCCESS.

OUR STUDENTS HAVE A

95%

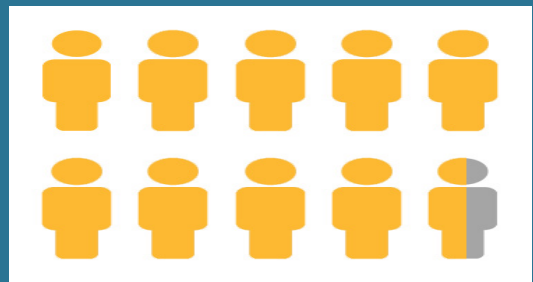
COLLEGE GRADUATION RATE!

Proven Results: Degree Completion

First-generation, low-income Lamp of Learning alumni who go to college are nearly **NINE** times more likely to graduate than their national peers.

95%

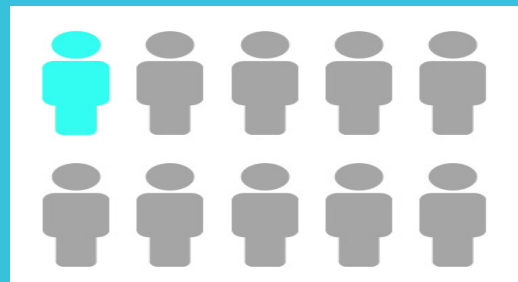
of first-generation, low-income LOL college students graduate with a four-year degree within six years*



*Source: Lamp of Learning Graduation rate, 2020

11%

of peers nationally graduate within the same timeframe**



**Source: Engle, J. & Tinto, V. (2008). Moving Beyond Access. Washington, DC: The Pell Institute

“The interview process was intimidating. Going into it at sixteen years old, it was my first time talking to successful people in such a professional setting. However, the Lamp of Learning Board made me feel really comfortable right off the bat. They made me feel really cared for and made sure that I knew that they were proud of all my accomplishments.”

- Ashley M.

THE CASE FOR INTERVIEWING JUNIORS.

As Ashley points out, there is no doubt that our Interview process is intimidating, but that’s not a bad thing.

Most importantly, we first interview our students in their junior year of high school. Often the first interview they have ever had.

We hold interviews at the University Club atop of Symphony Towers. The students are greeted professionally and are able to enjoy the beautiful view and notice the business executives engaging while they wait for their interview to begin.

They then enter a panel interview and 6-8 business professionals ask them a series of questions about their academic achievements and goals.

Its a tough gauntlet but in the end they know 4 things ...

01 They have proof that scholarships are real

Every student has heard that scholarships can help but how they get them and what that means is often mis-understood.

02 They understand what school really could cost

With a scholarship under their belt, they know that the “sticker price” may not be what their family needs to come up with.

03 They already know they have financial support

Having qualified and been pledged a scholarship, our students are empowered to seek our more and be less restrictive looking at schools.

04 A room full of successful people chose them

That intimidating interview was impactful because a room full of successful people looked at them and said ‘Yes, you have what it takes.’



OUR 2023 STUDENTS



Kelly Amador

High School: Mission Hills High School
AVID Teacher: Apolo Rios
Will be attending: UC Irvine



Justin Arias Chamu

High School: Poway High School
AVID Teacher: Karen Kawasaki
Will be attending: UC San Diego



Aaron Avila Lopez

High School: Poway High School
AVID Teacher: Karen Kawasaki
Will be attending: San Diego State University



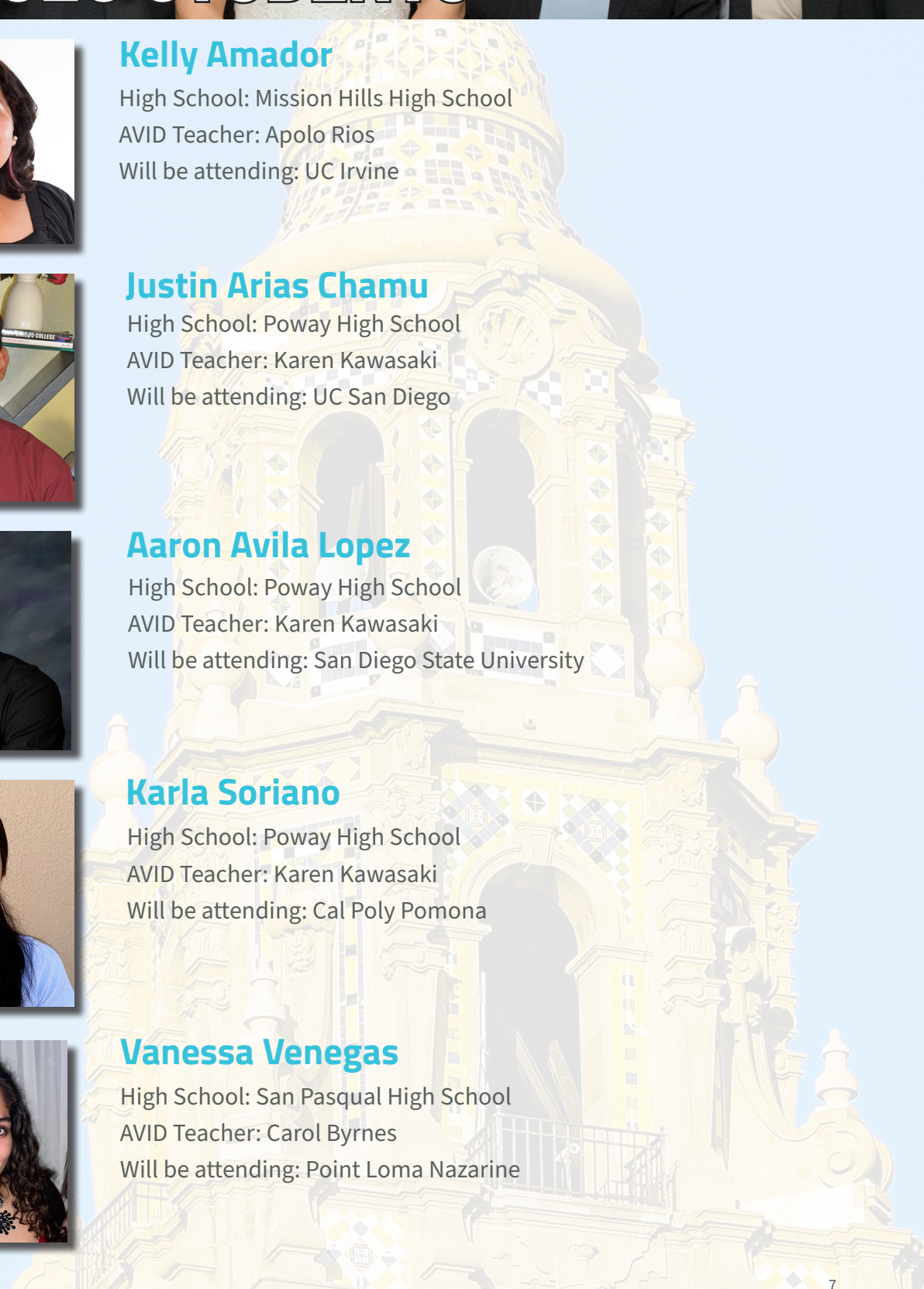
Karla Soriano

High School: Poway High School
AVID Teacher: Karen Kawasaki
Will be attending: Cal Poly Pomona



Vanessa Venegas

High School: San Pasqual High School
AVID Teacher: Carol Byrnes
Will be attending: Point Loma Nazarine



The Lamp of Learning creates significant and lasting impact with our students with the help of supporters like you. Thank you for helping us make a difference!

FINANCIAL REPORT

Lamp of Learning Profit & Loss July 2022 through June 2023

	Jul '22 - Jun 23
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Total Direct Public Support	\$ 55,525
In-Kind Support	\$ 34,302
Total Investments	\$ 721
Total Program Income	\$ -
Gross Income	\$ 90,548
Expense	
SD Foundation Fund Fees	\$ 975
Business Registration Fees	\$ 25
Insurance - Liability, D & O	\$ 572
Scholarships	\$ 18,000
Scholarship Trunks/Backpacks	\$ 1,043
Ignite Backpacks	\$ 120
Website	\$ 272
In-Kind Service Expenses	\$ 34,302
Total Expense	\$ 55,309
Net Ordinary Income	\$ 35,239
Net Income	\$ 35,239



DONATE TO LAMP OF LEARNING TODAY!

<https://donate.lampoflearning.org>

OUR MISSION THE LAMP OF LEARNING MISSION IS TO REDUCE THE BARRIERS THAT HIGH-ACHIEVING, LOW-INCOME STUDENTS THROUGHOUT SAN DIEGO COUNTY ENCOUNTER WHEN PREPARING, APPLYING, AND PAYING FOR A UNIVERSITY EDUCATION THROUGH MENTORING AND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS.



Total given in scholarships

\$294,000



Total Students

67



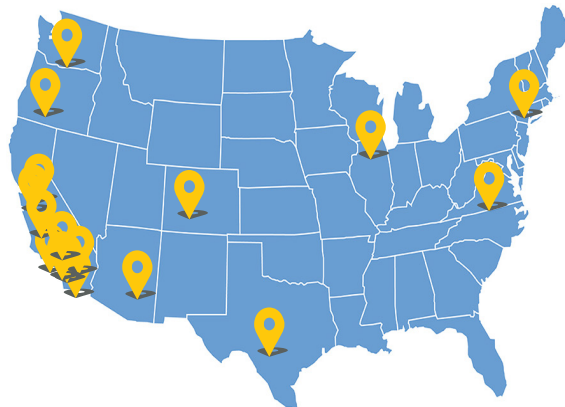
Total Universities

23



99
LAPTOPS

EACH JUNIOR INTERVIEWED
RECIEVES A STUDENT PACKAGE
INCLUDING A LAPTOP COMPUTER!



IN-STATE MAY BE GREAT BUT NOT ALWAYS CHEAPEST

Most LoL students stay in-state to lower costs but that may not be the best choice..

Research by Stanford professor Caroline Hoxby shows that the most selective schools (often private universities with the highest “price-tags”) can be the most cost effective schools to attend.

This is a result of those schools having stronger student aid packages and endowments that less selective schools can’t match.



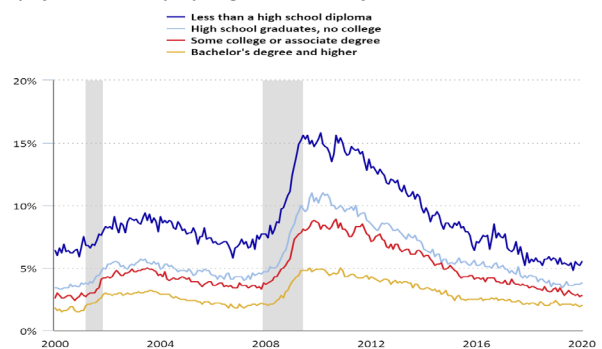
WOMEN OUTNUMBER MEN ACHIEVING DEGREES

■ According to the U.S. Department of Education. Women recieved nearly 60 percent of the degrees in the US in 2019.

60%

COLLEGE GRADUATES ARE OVER 50% LESS LIKELY TO BE UNEMPLOYED

Unemployment rates for people age 25 and older by educational attainment



Shaded areas represent recessions as determined by the National Bureau of Economic Research. Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.



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**THE BEST WAY TO UNDERSTAND
WHY WE DO THIS IS SPEND TIME
WITH OUR STUDENTS!
COME MEET THEM!**

[HTTPS://EVENTS.LAMPOFLEARNING.ORG](https://events.lampoflearning.org)



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