

Blurbs of 2023 Scholarship Recipients

by **Layne Sakamoto**, Scholarship Chair

Caitlyn Chailitlerd of South Pasadena High School will study Graphic Communication with a concentration in UX/UI Design at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. She has been involved with SkillsUSA all throughout high school. Caitlyn competed in 3D Visualization and Animation in the SkillsUSA Regional conference and earned a Silver medal at the State conference as well.

Winston Clark of Glendale High School will study Literary Studies with a minor in Writing at New School. At Glendale High School, he was varsity captain of the lacrosse team and played all four years there. He has been very involved with Little Tokyo volunteering for the Little Tokyo Service Center as well as interning there where he is involved in an oral history project documenting oral histories of first-generation Japanese immigrants.

Satoru Eto of Downtown Magnets High School in Los Angeles will attend Drexel University. He has played ice hockey competitively since the age of twelve. In high school, he participated as an assistant coach for the Little Kings Learn to Play program teaching ice hockey skills to 5-9 year old first-timers. Satoru plans on playing for Drexel's ice hockey team while pursuing his studies.

Mia Hennequin of Northwood High School in Irvine will study Civil Engineering at Irvine Valley Community College. She is in the honors program and has held various leadership roles in different clubs at Northwood. Some roles she has held are Class Representative of the Youth Action Team and Vice President of the National Organization of Women. She has also been a volunteer for the LPGA and PGA for several years.

Kristi Ikemoto of Yorba Linda High School will study Neuroscience at UCLA. She has been involved as a cabinet member of the Orange County Buddhist Church Junior Youth Buddhist Association for several years, serving most recently as President. Kristi is also involved with the Southeast Japanese School and Community Center and has volunteered as an assistant teacher at the summer youth camp, Camp Hanabi.

Taylor Jo-Gibson of South Pasadena High School will study Education at UC Irvine. She has worked for the South Pasadena Education Foundation during the summer offering a dance class for students ages 4-15. During the pandemic, Taylor created a business called Made by Tay selling baked goods to honor her late father and gives proceeds monthly to organizations to support their advocacy work. Taylor has participated in every Nisei week parade since 2014 with the same Awa Odori dance group.

Jade Shimamoto of South Pasadena will study Psychology at California State University, Long Beach. She is interested in becoming a psychologist that specializes in Asian American culture. Jade has interned at the Center for Japanese Mental Health and hopes to be the bridge between Japanese and American culture. She has also volunteered at the Huntington Hospital and is an AP scholar.

Shieru Wada of San Pedro Senior High School will study Civil Engineering at UC Berkeley. She has been on the Varsity tennis team since her freshman year and has completed the LA Marathon. Shieru has held multiple roles in The San Pedro Boys & Girls Club of Los Angeles Harbor. She co-founded Homeless Not Helpless and was co-president where they eventually used their resources to help out in Cebu, Philippines with the support of their local church.
