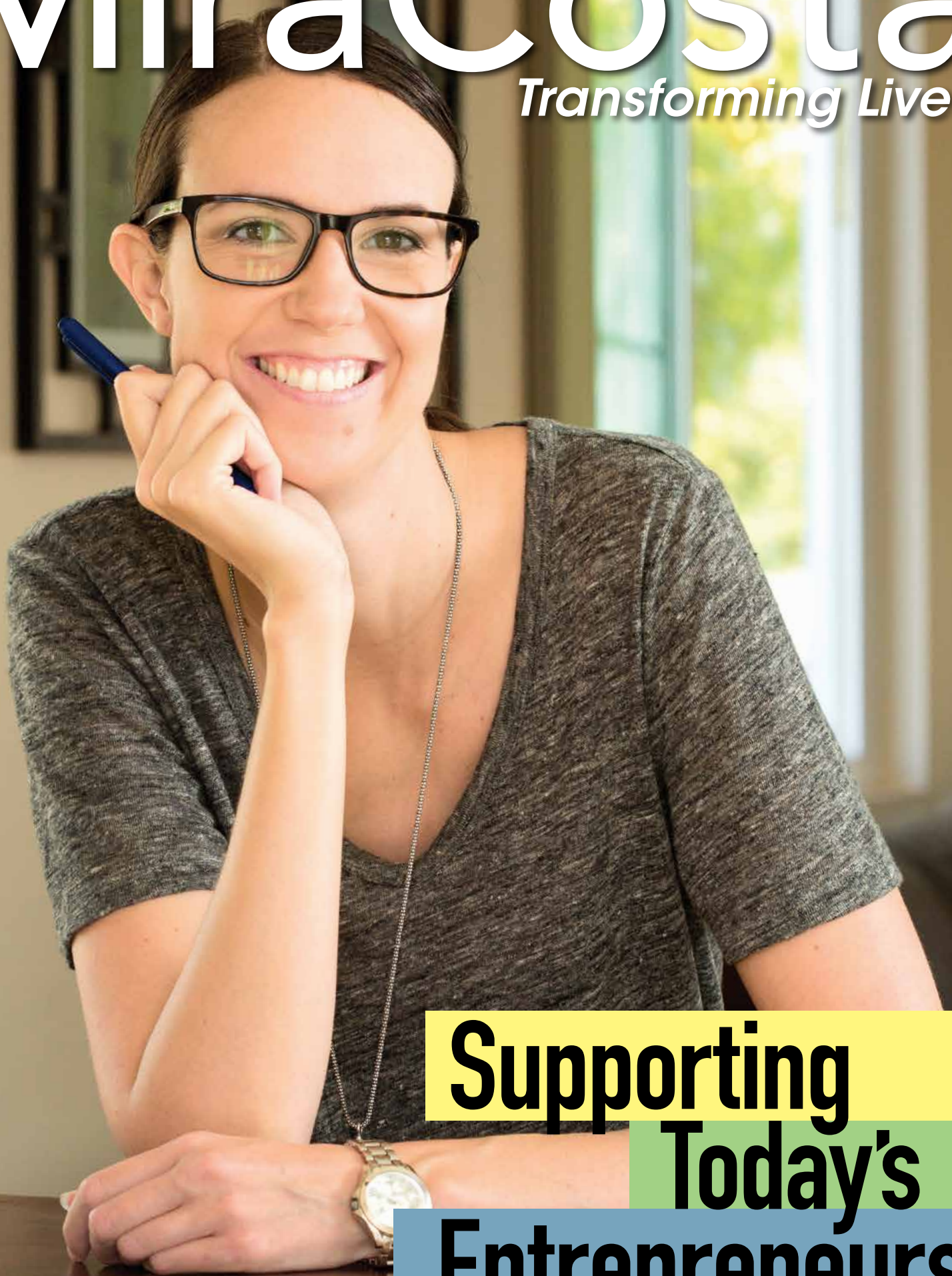


VOLUME XXI WINTER 2016

MiraCosta

Transforming Lives



**Supporting
Today's
Entrepreneurs**

FRIENDS OF MIRACOSTA COLLEGE:



It's long been known that community colleges are the engines of the economy and now we can quantify that at MiraCosta College. During one single year, MiraCosta College and its students add \$338.4 million to the North San Diego County economy. This economic impact is a result of the college's operations spending, student spending and the contribution our alumni make in the regional workforce.

From Carmel Valley in the south to Camp Pendleton in the north, businesses rely on MiraCosta College to train their future workforce. Meanwhile, students depend on MiraCosta for preparation for four-year college and future careers. And now more than ever before, local entrepreneurs and small

business owners turn to MiraCosta to provide the training and support needed to launch and grow their businesses.

This edition of *Transforming Lives* features the role MiraCosta College plays in creating today's entrepreneurs and supporting student success. You'll meet two MiraCosta graduates who have developed creative businesses that are flourishing and a local business owner who used the free resources at the North County Small Business Development Center, hosted by MiraCosta, to grow her small business. You'll also meet students who face substantial obstacles, like Allison Slaughter Talcott, who came back to college when her husband was diagnosed with a brain tumor. And Sana and Fa'tatauva'a Wong, two of nine siblings raised by a financially struggling single mom. While at MiraCosta, these students excelled.

All that MiraCosta College is able to accomplish is due to the hard work, dedication and talents of our faculty and staff. MiraCosta faculty are not only committed to student success but also are committed to helping make advancements in their own fields of study, with students benefiting from their expertise. Take Dr. Jeanine Sepulveda, for example. Through her impressive research on the muscle performance of swordfish, students are given the unique opportunity to learn and conduct experiments while working alongside scientists.

MiraCosta College is truly a gem in North County. Our contributions not only have substantial economic benefits but also deeply personal ones. I thank you for your continued support of MiraCosta. Together, we are doing great things.

Sunny

Dr. Sunny Cooke
Superintendent/President
MiraCosta College

The award-winning *MiraCosta, Transforming Lives* is published by the MiraCosta College Office of Development and Foundation and the Public Information Office. We greatly appreciate the participation of those who allowed us to tell their stories.

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On the Cover

Julia Kelly of *JK Expressions*, one of the countless entrepreneurs who has gotten a start at MiraCosta College.

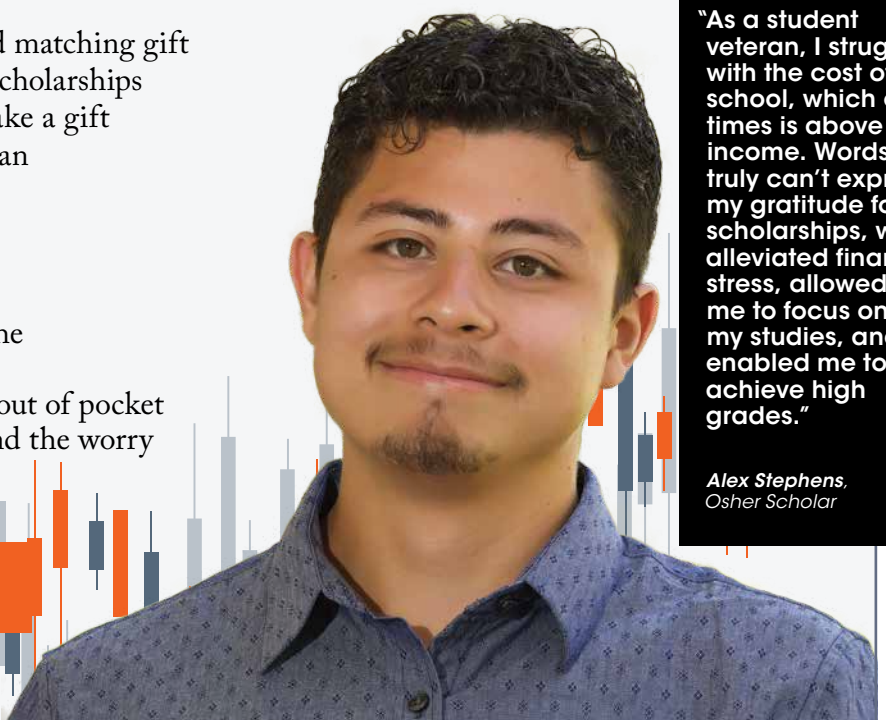
Leveraging for Good

With the stock market at an all-time high and matching gift funds* from the Campaign for Opportunity Scholarships available, this may be the best time ever to make a gift of stock and create your legacy in the form of an endowed scholarship.

Benefits to you:

- Avoid capital gains taxes
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*For more information, contact Elaine Dodge, Associate Director, Development, 760.795.6652.



"As a student veteran, I struggle with the cost of school, which often times is above my income. Words truly can't express my gratitude for scholarships, which alleviated financial stress, allowed me to focus on my studies, and enabled me to achieve high grades."

Alex Stephens,
Osher Scholar



GETTING BY

WITH A LITTLE HELP
FROM HER

FRIENDS

MiraCosta College helped Allison Slaughter Talcott cope during a most difficult time in her life.

The day before Talcott enrolled in MiraCosta's Biotechnology Program in the fall of 2014, she received the devastating news that her husband Steven had been diagnosed with a brain tumor. Talcott wanted to put off college, but her husband convinced her otherwise.

"I had been a stay-at-home mom for nearly 20 years, and he wanted—needed—to be sure that I could get the education and training necessary to find the kind of job I needed to support myself after he was gone," she said.

Talcott's husband passed away February 4 of this year. Just a few months later, thanks in large part to the unwavering support of her MiraCosta professors, Talcott earned

Supporting Today's Entrepreneurs

Ari Jogiél-Schlam opened a Los Angeles business that manufactures men's and women's clothing.

Julia Kelly launched a company that creates caricatures at corporate events and trade shows.

Debra Howard put her love of helping the vulnerable into establishing an adult day program for those living with developmental disabilities.

Jogiél-Schlam, Kelly and Howard are just three of the countless entrepreneurs who have gotten their start at MiraCosta College.

"The classes I took and the professors I had were very instrumental in preparing me with the skills I needed to open my own business," said Jogiél-Schlam, who later transferred to Chapman University, debuted his company, Leopardët, in March of 2015, and has plans for it to become a multinational success. "MiraCosta is an excellent community college. I still keep in touch with some of the instructors."

MiraCosta College is helping to build the region's growing legion of entrepreneurs thanks to a comprehensive business program, the North San Diego Small Business Development Center, a new Veterans Business Outreach Center, and an array of other services.

Among the more impactful programs is the Small Business Development Center, which has been helping launch businesses since it opened in 1999. Funded in part by the U.S. Small Business Administration, the North San Diego Small Business Development Center's service area covers all of San Diego County north of Interstate 8, and is dedicated to increasing the economic

vitality of the community by helping small businesses and entrepreneurs build a foundation for success.

Since January 1, 2015, the Small Business Development Center has seen nearly 4,500 people take part in its training sessions, including 1,536 members of minority communities and 551 military veterans. It is credited with helping to create 331 new businesses since its opening, and Debra Howard's LOL-Life Of Liberty Adult Day Program among them.

"I was looking for someone who was knowledgeable in the startup of a small business, and I came across the MiraCosta College Small Business Development Center," said Howard. "It was just what I was looking for. It offers so many resources, a wealth of information, and classes and workshops from QuickBooks to accounting to legal issues. And all of it is available under one roof."

Howard said the center's biggest impact came in helping her develop a business plan complete with the financial projections needed to secure financing. Eight years after she first visited the center, Howard still drops in for seminars on topics that have helped her business thrive.

"I've always had a heart for helping the developmentally disabled, and the Small Business Development Center has made it possible for me to start a business doing what I love."

That's how Julia Kelly feels. Kelly was working as a part-time graphic artist when she enrolled at MiraCosta College. Now she's a successful digital caricature artist

ari

MiraCosta College alumni Ari Jogiel-Schlam founded Leopardét, an American-manufactured clothing line.





julia

Julia Kelly launched a company that creates caricatures at corporate events and trade shows.



debra

Debra Howard put her love of helping the vulnerable into establishing an adult day program for those living with developmental disabilities.

who owns and operates a flourishing business she helped build using the skills she learned at MiraCosta.

“I love MiraCosta,” said Kelly, whose firm, JK Expressions, contracts with 10 artists from California to Florida. “Everybody at MiraCosta College is looking out for you and has your best interests in mind.”

Kelly, who had had been drawing most of her life, decided in the summer after her freshman year to seek a job as a caricature artist at Legoland. “I wasn’t really that good, but they hired me anyway, and I learned a lot.”

The experience led her to strike out on her own as a freelancer drawing caricatures at birthday parties, weddings and the like. Meanwhile, she continued to flourish at MiraCosta College, where her academic achievements helped her secure scholarships to UC Berkeley, UCLA and UC San Diego. Instead, she decided to return to MiraCosta and study accounting—a decision that proved invaluable for her growing business.

“Accounting is incredibly useful when you’re running your own company,” she said. “Coming into MiraCosta, I had no clue about anything that had to do with accounting. I didn’t even know what a balance sheet was.”

Thankfully, that’s no longer the case. In 2014, JK Expressions was generating well into the six figures and building new relationships with event planners and trade shows.

Through its array of for-credit courses in topics subjects such as social media for business, small business management, marketing, and advertising and promotions, MiraCosta College is helping to develop even more success stories everyday.

“When you start a business, you have to love what you’re doing,” said Jogiel-Schlam. “You have to put your heart into it. A lot of things can go wrong, and if you don’t love what you’re doing, then when something goes wrong you could get discouraged and quit. But MiraCosta College can help prepare you and help you find what your passion is. I’m very happy I went there.” ■

Ra
studen
education

1



the economic value of MiraCosta College



\$338 M

Added income to
Coastal North
San Diego County

Rate of return for
investors who invest in an
endowment at MiraCosta College

1.6%

Taxpayers get a
\$1.80 return for
every tax dollar spent on
MiraCosta College

\$1 ⇒ \$1.80

MiraCosta College plays a key role in helping students increase their employability by teaching the skills they need to have a fulfilling and prosperous career.

MiraCosta also creates a significant positive impact on the business community and generates a return on investment to all the college's major stakeholder groups—students, taxpayers and society.

BENEFITS

MiraCosta College contributes to society through savings related to reduced crime, lower unemployment, and increased health and well-being of students.



**DR. JEANINE SEPULVEDA:
A LIFETIME OF COMMITMENT
TO THE OCEAN**



“OUR GOAL IS TO UNDERSTAND MUSCLE FUNCTION IN SWORDFISH, AN ELUSIVE PELAGIC PREDATOR WITH EXTREME THERMAL TOLERANCE. THE FIRST STEP OF AN EXPERIMENT IS IN VITRO ISOLATION OF SMALL BUNDLES OF CELLS USING MICRODISSECTION TECHNIQUES.”

IF YOU LIKE THE OCEAN, YOU’LL LOVE MIRA COSTA COLLEGE PROFESSOR DR. JEANINE SEPULVEDA.

Dr. Sepulveda, who earned her Ph.D. at the Marine Biology Research Division of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, works with experts across the United States investigating conditions impacting fish and fisheries.

The marine biologist’s work with the Pflieger Institute of Environmental Research in Oceanside opens up a world of educational opportunities for MiraCosta College students. Many work with Dr. Sepulveda and her colleagues from the universities of Calgary and Massachusetts, assisting with a project that measures the effect of water temperature on the muscle performance of swordfish. Students also participate with the institute in other ongoing academic projects.

“These internship opportunities have been a wonderful way to engage students in the process of science and get them excited about a career in marine biology,” she said.

“These opportunities also expose students to new ideas that stem from research, new findings in the field of comparative physiology, the challenges of field research, and directions in fisheries management.”

Dr. Sepulveda embodies MiraCosta College’s commitment to science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Nearly half of all MiraCosta College transfer applications to the University of California system are for STEM majors, and MiraCosta next fall will be the first community college in California to host a baccalaureate program in the growing field of biomanufacturing.

A native of Orange County, Dr. Sepulveda earned her bachelor’s degree in biology and her master’s degree in marine biology from Cal State Fullerton, before earning her Ph.D. She taught at UC San Diego, UC Irvine and Cal State Fullerton before coming to MiraCosta College in the fall of 2004.

“Dr. Sepulveda is a dynamic instructor with rich field and research experience,” said Julie Haugsness-White, Biological Sciences Chair at MiraCosta College.

She also brings her passion to the classroom, earning numerous positive reviews from students. “Where do I start?” wrote one student in an online review. “She is an inspirational teacher to me, she helped me network and met with me after class to talk about my major. She guided me towards different majors/jobs in the future. She gives great feedback and knows what she’s teaching.”

Dr. Sepulveda, meanwhile, says she is impressed with all that MiraCosta College has to offer.

“MiraCosta College is by far the most student-centered that I have ever worked with,” she said. “We are dedicated to personal and professional development that affords an ever-improving student experience. My colleagues and I care deeply about students and the equity, safety and effectiveness of their learning environment on and off campus.” ■





MiraCosta College was exactly what I needed. In fact, because the class sizes are small and hands-on, I actually feel like I learned as much at MiraCosta as I did at the University of Colorado.

her Associate of Arts Degree in Biotechnology Research and Development. Today, she is employed at Thermo Fisher Scientific in Carlsbad as part of a prestigious internship program, where she is working on the tools and reagents designed to accelerate development of engineered cell lines and disease models for biotherapeutic research.

“Allison is really remarkable and truly inspirational,” said Gail Baughman, a biotechnology professor who came to know Talcott well. “She disclosed to me what was happening in her personal life, not to ask for any favors but to let me know that if she appeared tired, or emotional, or stressed that there was a reason unrelated to the college and her coursework. Throughout it all she showed such dedication and determination; she was that focused student who came to class prepared, asked meaningful questions, and worked hard to fill in deficits in her understanding each and every class session.”

Talcott represents a large segment of MiraCosta College students. Like so many firmly ensconced in middle age, she returned to college to learn new job skills. Now she is on her way toward playing a critical role in the regional economy.

“Hers is a great story,” said Dean of Math and Sciences Mike Fino, who taught several courses in which Talcott was enrolled. “It’s wonderful that we can be here for people in the community during a fragile stage of their life. It’s also wonderful that her diligence, persistence and dedication equaled excellence in her educational pursuits.”

This wasn’t Talcott’s first foray into a career in the sciences. She had earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Biochemistry from the University of Colorado in 1986, then spent eight years working as a quality control expert for different employers, including the Colorado Springs Wastewater Treatment laboratory. But Talcott put her career on hold after marrying, moving to California and raising two sons as a stay-at-home mom.

With both of her boys now in college, she decided to head back into the workforce. After an 18-year hiatus, she was in for a rude awakening.

“I sent out a bunch of resumes, but I heard nothing back,” Talcott said. “Not even an email response. So I decided to go back to school.”

Choosing MiraCosta wasn’t difficult.

“MiraCosta College was the only community college in the area with a Biotechnology Program,” she said. “It was a perfect match. It got me back into the lab at an affordable price.”

But even at just \$46 per unit, affordability was an issue. Especially because Talcott’s husband, whose esophageal cancer had spread to his brain, wasn’t able to work.

That’s when the MiraCosta College Foundation stepped in, awarding her a \$1,000 Genentech Biotechnology Scholarship, among others.

“Money was kind-of tight,” Talcott recalled. “There really wasn’t any money for me to go to school, so the scholarships helped out tremendously.”

So did landing the Thermo Fisher Scientific internship via the Bridges to the Stem Cell Research Program, an effort funded by the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine. The program, based at Cal State San Marcos, is run in partnership with MiraCosta and Miramar Colleges.

Talcott’s internship wraps up in December. She’s already sending out resumes to perspective employers. This time they’re following up on her inquiries.

“MiraCosta College was exactly what I needed,” she said. “They have a really good Biotechnology Program. The professors are great and they really want to help you. And the quality of instruction was excellent. In fact, because the class sizes are small and hands-on, I actually feel like I learned as much at MiraCosta as I did at the University of Colorado. All in all, I’m glad I went to MiraCosta. The people were really caring and supportive during a very hard time in my life.” ■

Meet Sana & Fa'tatauva'a Wong, your daily dose of inspiration.

A good education can bring people out of poverty. I want to help others get the same kind of education I received. I want to help make a difference in other people's lives.

Raised with nine other siblings by a financially struggling single mom who moved with her children from Samoa to Oceanside in search of opportunity, Sana and her older brother, Fa'tatauva'a, have become the first in their family to graduate from college.

"They are both incredible role models who are going to go far in life," said Lisa

Montes, a Student Services specialist at MiraCosta College who has served as a mentor to the siblings.

"They both want to give back to the community," added Josa Mota, the college's Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) Coordinator who got to know the Wongs through the First Year Experience Program. "They both want to help students who have come from similar challenges and similar circumstances."

Sana and Fa'tatauva'a, now enrolled at Cal State San Marcos, credit MiraCosta for pushing them to succeed. "The professors are amazing," said Sana. "They not only know you as a student, but they get to know you on a personal level, too."

Fa'tatauva'a agreed. "The faculty and staff care about their students' lives. The services to help students succeed are there. It is a very supportive atmosphere."

Fa'tatauva'a's journey to MiraCosta College was a circuitous one.

After arriving in Oceanside about a decade ago, Fa'tatauva'a graduated from Oceanside High School and left for college in Denver,

only to return home a few months later.

"I didn't want to leave my mom alone," he said. "We weren't financially stable."

He then enrolled at MiraCosta, took part in the First Year Experience Program and EOPS, and worked as a student ambassador, touting the benefits of the college to high school students around North San Diego County. The MiraCosta College Foundation awarded him an Osher Initiative for California Community College Students Scholarship for his dedication and hard work in inspiring others.

Graduating with an associate degree in psychology in 2014, Fa'tatauva'a is now on his way to earning a bachelor's degree and teaching credential before setting out for a teaching job.

"A good education can bring people out of poverty," he said. "I want to help others get the same kind of education I received. I want to help make a difference in other people's lives."

Sana Wong, the younger sibling by one year, made the MiraCosta President's List and graduated from the college in the spring of 2016. She, too, took part in the First Year Experience Program and served as a student ambassador. The MiraCosta College Foundation awarded her an Elizabeth Reid Memorial Endowed Scholarship and an Asian Pacific Islander Scholarship for her many efforts, including working with youth councils in motivating first-generation Americans to pursue their education and promoting her Samoan heritage at local festivals.

Sana now has her sights set on a bachelor's degree in psychology and becoming a college counselor.

"It's been a long struggle," Sana said. "It was especially hard for my mother. But it's very satisfying to be where we're at right now." ■



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FOUNDATION

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2016

PHILANTHROPIST *of the Year*

As a longtime businessman who helped build a successful manufacturing company and who holds nearly three dozen patents worldwide, Alec J. Babiarz knows a thing or two about what constitutes a good investment.

“Eva and I are strong supporters of education and enjoy giving back to the local community to help people gain an education,” said Babiarz of he and his wife’s investment. “As in business, focusing on an issue produces results. We have focused our efforts on MiraCosta College because the college is helping people gain job skills and an education that adds value to the local community and people’s lives.”

The holder of Master of Science degrees in Electrical and Mechanical Engineering from Stanford University, Babiarz launched his career with Hewlett-Packard and later co-founded Asymtek, which produces machinery that lays down just the right amount of adhesive when manufacturing high tech products such as cell phones. Asymtek was acquired by Nordson Corp. more than a decade later, and Babiarz retired from the firm as president of business development in 2014. He now serves as a principal in Techfounder Consulting.

Babiarz made his first gift to the college in 2010 and has since given or directed giving of more than \$130,000 in support of scholarships, foster youth and military veterans.

Babiarz is the current president of the MiraCosta College’s Business Roundtable, and vice president of the college Foundation.

“I like the direction that MiraCosta is going in,” said Babiarz. “I like their focus on science and technology programs, the Technology Career Institute, and I like what they are doing to support foster youth and veterans.” ■