



 ALLAN  
HANCOCK  
COLLEGE  
FOUNDATION

# IMPACT REPORT

2022/2023

# A TWO-YEAR PROMISE IS WITHIN REACH

Completing the Hancock Promise Campaign Will Expand the Program

If you've ever heard Hancock's President Kevin Walthers talk about the Hancock Promise, then you have probably heard the story of how the Hancock Promise got its start.

Soon after he arrived at Hancock nearly a decade ago, he was speaking to a group of parents in Guadalupe about how to apply for college and financial aid. Because many of the parents did not speak English, a translator tried to explain the difficult and confusing process.

Seeing the confusion in the faces of the parents who themselves had not attended college, he finally said, "It's free. College will be free." The

parents understood that simple message, and President Walthers remembers seeing tears on the cheeks of a few parents when they realized their children may have a shot at a college education.

And that's how the Hancock Promise came to be. But who was going to pay for it?

Since that time, the state has provided

some funding to support the Promise, but those funds do not cover the entire cost and—like all state funding—they are not guaranteed to last. That's why the Allan Hancock College Foundation is building a locally funded endowment to ensure every high school graduate in our district can begin college without the burden of paying tuition.

When Hancock made that commitment, we could only make the promise to pay for one year of tuition. Today, we see that a second year of free tuition may be possible.

"Today, we see that a second year of free tuition may be possible"

To date, the Hancock Promise Campaign has over \$6.5 million in gifts and pledges toward our \$10 million goal. And as we round the corner to the final leg of the campaign, we can see

what awaits just over the finish line.

When we reach our campaign goal, the college will expand the Hancock Promise to ensure two years of tuition for new high school graduates in our district.

This fall, Hancock welcomed the fifth Hancock Promise cohort to campus, with over 1,200 local high school graduates continuing their education at Hancock.



Jon Hooten

This is an increase over last year's enrollment, and we expect the trend to continue. Over 6,500 students

have benefited from the Hancock Promise since the program's launch, and we are building a future where tens of thousands of students will start college at Hancock on the Promise.

We could not do this work without the leadership of the AHC Foundation Board of Directors, local business and community leaders, and the contributions from people who are passionate about education. Thank you for your support of Hancock and the Promise Campaign. You are changing the odds for the next generation.

Jon Hooten, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

Allan Hancock College Foundation

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# HANCOCK PROMISE IS CHANGING THE ODDS

More than 6,500 local students have received "First Year Free at AHC"

This fall, more than 1,200 local high school graduates decided to attend Hancock full-time—and in return they received a year of free tuition, thanks to the Hancock Promise.

"The Hancock Promise is our commitment to the community that, regardless of what happens in Sacramento, we will have the local funding to ensure students can start college tuition-free," says President Kevin Walthers, "That's good for the communities Hancock serves, it's good for local businesses, it's good for the economy, and—most importantly—it's good for the students who make the smart choice to not only start college right out of high school but to do it for free."

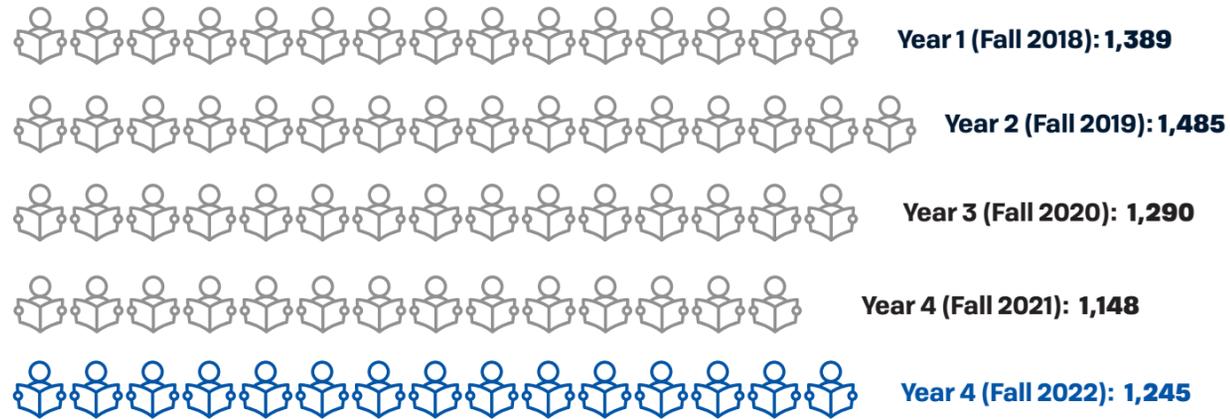
Now in its fifth year, Hancock's hallmark program continues to make an impact on a generation of local students. Enrollment in the program is up from last year, despite the interruption of the pandemic, over 6,500 students have started Hancock on the Promise program. Over 85 percent of Promise students are from economically disadvantaged families, over 60 percent are from Latinx families, and half of all Promise students are the first in their families to attend college.

"When you see how many students are taking advantage of the Promise, you see just how transformative it is," says Jon Hooten. "We are seeing cycles of poverty and inequity being broken in real time."

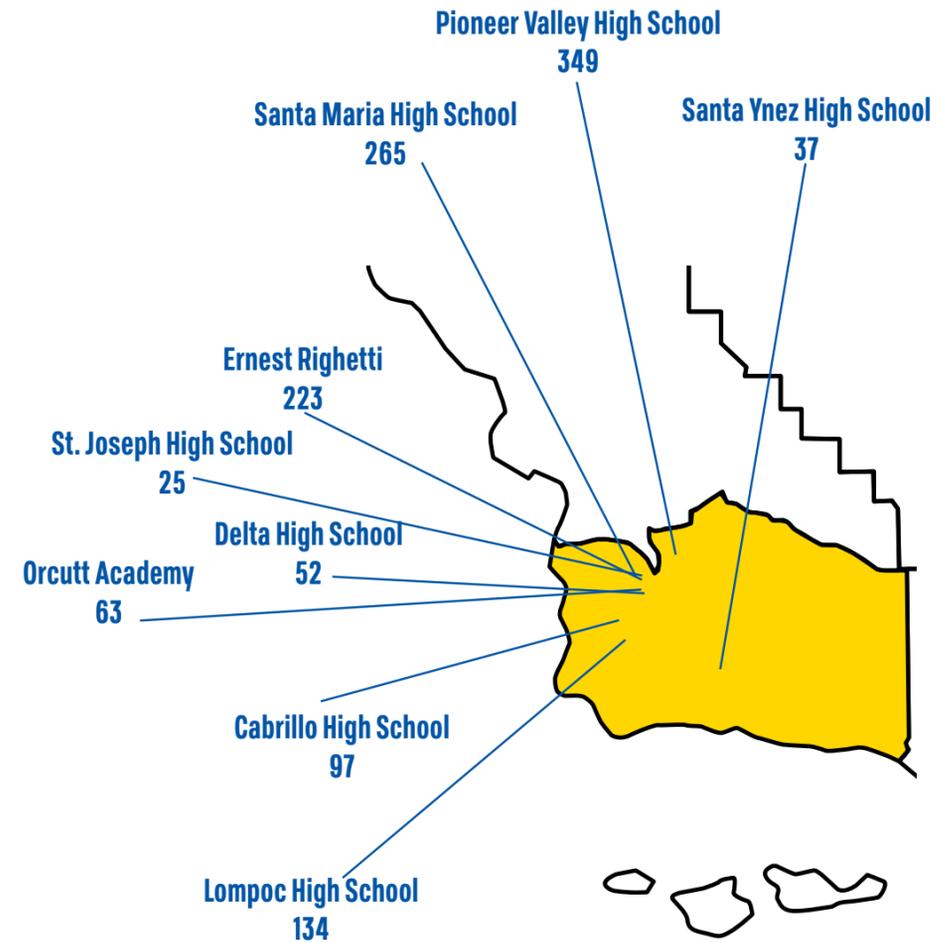
The Hancock Promise campaign will ensure that this work continues into perpetuity. To date, the campaign has surpassed over \$6.5 million in gifts and pledges toward a \$10 million goal—thanks to the generosity of individuals and the strategic investment of local businesses, social groups, and foundations.

"We are seeing cycles of poverty and inequity being broken in real time."

## TOTAL PROMISE STUDENTS: 6,557



# 2022 PROMISE STUDENTS



Promise students enroll at Hancock from nearly every public high school in northern Santa Barbara County. Some students begin the summer after graduation while most start at Hancock in the fall semester.

enroll from Orcutt schools (which includes students from Guadalupe and Los Alamos who enroll at Righetti HS). Almost 30 percent enroll from Lompoc and Vandenberg with the remainder joining from the Santa Ynez Valley and other areas.

While 50 percent of students enroll from Santa Maria high schools, another 27 percent

HANCOCK PROMISE CAMPAIGN  
**\$6,574,632**



<b>50%</b> First in their family to attend college	<b>65%</b> Latinx	<b>85%</b> Economically disadvantaged
<b>\$6.57 Million</b> Total gifts and pledges	<b>1,181</b> Total number of gifts	<b>297</b> Total number of donors

# WINEMAKER'S DINNER ENDS WITH SURPRISE ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Outdoor event on Hancock's campus honors alumni winemakers*

On a warm evening in September, nearly 100 friends of Allan Hancock College gathered on campus for a unique evening: an elegant winemaker's dinner, featuring bottles and beers crafted by Hancock alumni.

The September 10 event, which was sponsored by CoastHills Credit Union and produced by Testa Catering, welcomed major donors, community leaders, business owners, and other local stakeholders to campus to sample wines and beer made by Hancock alumni. During dinner, guests also heard an update on the Hancock Promise Campaign.

The welcoming reception featured three local winemakers who all trained in Hancock's wine making program, including Fidencio Flores '12 (Esfuerzo Wines), Jason Mergenov '14 (Rockets Red Wine); and Jordan Crabtree '10 (El Viñero). Stephen Kitts '14 and Emily Kitts '03 (Naughty Oak Brewing Company) also poured a selection of their beers, and

students from the AHC Winery were on hand to pour current selections from the college winery.

The Foundation honored alumna Sonja Magdevski '11 (Casa Dumetz Wines, Babis Beer Emporium) as the featured winemaker of the evening, serving her latest bottlings with dinner. During the program, she spoke fondly about her time at Hancock and what the college meant to her and her thriving wine business. She also shared stories of how she discovered her true passion for wine making while attending Hancock's viticulture and enology program.

"I have degrees from University of Michigan and Michigan State, and I can say without a doubt that the education I received at Hancock is on par with the education I received there," said the former Fulbright Scholar during her impromptu speech to the crowd. During the after-dinner program, President Kevin Walthers made two surprise announcements.

The first was that once the Hancock Promise campaign reaches its \$10 million goal, the college plans to expand the Hancock Promise to fully fund two years of college tuition and fees.

The second announcement was a significant step toward that goal: representatives from Pacific Gas and Electric Company presented the college with a check for \$50,000 to support the Hancock Promise endowment.

After that announcement, President Walthers learned that someone in the audience, who wished to remain anonymous, committed another \$20,000 toward the Promise campaign.

"This wasn't a fundraising event," President Walthers said with a laugh, "But we just raised \$70,000 for Hancock's students. Not a bad night!"





# New Scholarships Created in 2021-22

*Donors established 13 new annual and endowed awards*

During the last academic year, donors established thirteen new scholarships at the Foundation to directly benefit students. Many of the new scholarships are created by individuals or families to honor loved ones, while others are focused on supporting certain areas of study and training.

- Margaret Segura Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Richard Jacoby Scholarship
- Fernando and Rosie Rojo "Si Se Puede" Award
- Ryan S. Senior Scholarship for Student Athletes
- Sutter Scholarship for Educational Advancement

## Annual Scholarship

An annual scholarship requires a monthly or annual contribution of at least \$500. Many individuals automatically contribute a monthly amount—as little as \$42 per month—to start a scholarship.

## Endowed Scholarship

An endowed scholarship requires a minimum one-time gift of \$10,000 that will produce scholarship support into perpetuity. The Foundation holds and invests the initial amount and grows the endowment over the years to increase the benefit to students.

**To discuss establishing a scholarship, contact Natalie Rucobo at the Foundation at 805-925-2004 or [nrucobo@hancockcollege.edu](mailto:nrucobo@hancockcollege.edu).**

The new awards include:

- Allan Hancock College Management Association Scholarship
- Dr. Kate Adams Memorial Scholarship
- Will Bruce Memorial Scholarship
- "Golden Medley" Kay Riley Hood Memorial Scholarship
- G. Allan Hancock Scholarship
- Kinship Scholarship
- Los Olivos Rotary Club Skilled Vocational Scholarships
- Manuel "Mano" & Ruben Calzada Memorial Scholarship

## Creating a New Scholarship is Easy

Creating a scholarship at Hancock is a simple and effective way to honor someone special while providing a benefit to hard-working students. You can establish two kinds of tax-deductible scholarships at the Foundation, both of which require a simple one-page form. When you start a scholarship, you are invited to the Scholarship Banquet each year to meet the recipient of your award.

# FOUNDATION AWARDS RECORD AMOUNT AT SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET

*Annual recognition dinner returns to in-person event after two-year hiatus*

The Allan Hancock College Foundation celebrated the end of the 2021-2022 school year in a huge way—by awarding \$571,000 in scholarships to more than 300 deserving students at the annual Scholarship Banquet. This is the largest amount the Foundation has ever awarded in a single year.

The annual Scholarship Banquet, which has long been a campus favorite for many faculty and staff, returned to an in-person event for the first time since the beginning of the pandemic. Over 600

students, family members, and donors gathered in the Joe White Gymnasium on May 26<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the annual awards.

"This is such a special event not only for the foundation but for the entire college," says Executive Director Jon Hooten. "It's such a joy to celebrate the success of students and applaud their families for their support."

During the banquet, President Kevin Walthers also announced the annual recipient of the Marian Hancock Schol-

arship—the prestigious \$10,000 scholarship awarded to the top student scholarship applicant.

Scholarship recipients are selected by a 15-person committee comprised of faculty, staff, and Foundation volunteers. The committee begins work in February, reading dozens of applications. Each student application is read and ranked by three members of the committee, ensuring a fair and equitable process.



# PROMISE STUDENT WINS MARIAN SCHOLARSHIP

*Fabiola Vazquez Continues Education at UC Berkeley*

Each year, the AHC Foundation Scholarship Committee selects one graduating student who demonstrates outstanding academic performance and promise to receive the Marian Hancock Scholarship—the prestigious \$10,000 award named in honor of Captain G. Allan Hancock’s late wife.

This year, during the 2022 Scholarship Banquet, a very surprised Fabiola Vazquez learned she was the 56th annual recipient of the award.

After graduating high school, Fabiola couldn’t wait until the fall semester to start college, so she began taking summer classes at Hancock on the Promise program. Throughout her time as an English major at Hancock, she made the Dean’s List and maintained a perfect 4.0 GPA.

Fabiola managed to keep those high academic standards all while working as a campus tutor helping people earn

their GEDs. In their letters of reference, Hancock’s faculty described Vazquez as “indispensable,” “trustworthy,” “hardworking,” and “kind.”

In addition to the Marian Award, Vazquez also received the inaugural Dr. Kate Adams Memorial Scholarship,

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*“I aspire to touch as many lives as Professor Adams did.” said Fabiola. “We need more professors like her who inspire their students and push them to strive for success.”*

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named after her mentor who died unexpectedly during Fabiola’s last year at Hancock. She noted the significance of being the inaugural recipient of the award in honor of Adams, a Hancock professor she deeply admired.

Fabiola is the first person in her family to go to college, and her younger brother Daniel is following in her footsteps. He also received two Foundation scholarships at the banquet.

English is Fabiola’s second language, and she has a passion for English literacy in Spanish-speaking communities. She tutors Spanish-speakers in English, and since high school she has produced a YouTube channel that teaches English to a Spanish-speaking audience. She plans to continue her studies in English education to support this passion.

“I plan to come back [to Hancock] hopefully to work as an ESL professor”, she said. “I want to give back to Hancock everything that it has given me.”



# GIVING ABOVE AND BEYOND

*Hancock's staff and faculty give generously to students*

Allan Hancock College's most dedicated donors are those closest to home. Staff and faculty (current and retired) represent the largest group of donors to the Foundation. They have contributed tens of thousands of dollars to the Promise campaign, established numerous scholarships, supported the President's Circle, Student Emergency Fund, the annual Turkey Drive and Angel Tree programs. Employee giving is an ongoing tradition at Hancock, and the staff and faculty who participate are especially proud of their work.

Many faculty and staff scholarships honor colleagues or family members, and the Scholarship Program is growing in part due to the generosity of faculty and staff giving. Last year, for example, staff in the Financial Aid Department decided to pool their resources and honor a retiring colleague by starting a scholarship in her name. Today, members of the office each donate \$5 per month from their paycheck to the Joyce Dendo Scholarship, which provides \$500 to a veteran studying at Hancock.

Faculty and staff giving supports students in many ways for different reasons. Here are three examples:

## Do the Math

Wendy Sutter, mathematics professor, is the founder of the Sutter Scholarship for Educational Advancement. The scholarship provides funding for Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) students, which helps low-income and educationally disadvantaged students excel.

"One of my students invited me to the annual EOPS banquet as guest of their family. I found it to be a truly valuable program. I learned that students have really diverse backgrounds and don't necessarily let people see the challenges they face. That's one of the many reasons

I decided to give money to support the program, through a scholarship with the Allan Hancock College Foundation. I think that faculty can support students in many ways, as educators and more. The thing that I think is most powerful is that it doesn't matter how much money you give. I thought my amount was too small. Even \$10 a month can make a difference."

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**"This is our way of supporting each other," Becker said. "We hold each other up. It really makes a big difference."**

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## The Art of Giving

Thanks to the work of staff and faculty, students like Elenor Paul, recipient of the 2022 "Golden Medley" Kay Riley Hood Memorial Scholarship, can look forward to a brighter educational future. The scholarship was created this year by John and Debra Hood in memory of John's mother Sandra Kay Hood—a devoted single mother of three and a proud Texan.

Raised by a family who loved the arts and believed in giving back to the community, she shared her admiration for songs and musical theatre with her children. The annual scholarship was established for outstanding students in Hancock's music and PCPA programs. The aim of the scholarship is to help students whose love of music inspired them to further their education and make it part of their greater purpose.

For John Hood, professor of art and design and chair for the Fine Arts department, the commitment to give

back to a new generation of creative students facing a challenging job field is his motivation. His family helped create the Golden Medley Scholarship as a way of honoring his mother's legacy and to help new artists and performers thrive beyond college.

"I was hearing so many stories of how hard it was to transfer into a new profession. A lot of students don't have the same resources as my mother had during her time in college. This is about paying it forward."

## Filling the Gaps

Laura Becker, director of business services, wanted her employee giving to be able to help students whose needs don't always "check all the boxes," as she put it. That's why she joined the President's Circle.

"I always like to give back to where I'm working. I give because I love the success stories. The President's Circle is a way to make sure that we help when students have nowhere else to go. President Kevin Walthers gets the critical challenges. The President's Circle is able to come up with solutions when they have exhausted all their other options. That's who we want to help."

Becker also belongs to a very special group of employees who also give back to Hancock. Along with LeeAnn McNulty, director of institutional grants, and Mary Dominguez, dean of student services, the trio have a walking group which can often be spotted during lunch, making their way through the college campus. All three are loyal donors to the Foundation.

"This is our way of supporting each other," Becker said. "We hold each other up. It really makes a big difference."





## PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE FILLS THE GAPS

*Funds supported NASA event, student emergencies, even tattoo removal*

Allan Hancock College provides a wide range of resources that extend beyond academic support, including free food on campus, book vouchers, basic health care, funds for one-time emergencies, dress clothes for interviews, and other basic human needs.

While most needs are fairly conventional and covered by an array of financial support programs through the college, students sometimes find themselves in situations that fall beyond what the college can address. But that doesn't mean Hancock's donors and supporters won't find a way to help. This is where the President's Circle can help.

The President's Circle is a group of donors who contribute \$1,000 annually to an unrestricted fund that President Walthers and Foundation leadership can use to address special needs and situations at Hancock.

This summer, the President's Circle was hosted at Runway Vineyards, owned

and operated by former California Lieutenant Governor Abel Maldonado, for an update on the program. During his remarks, President Walthers updated the President's Circle on a rather unique student need that they helped address during the school year.

President Walthers explained that Hancock's program for formerly incarcerated students — "Beyond Incarceration: Greater Education," or the BIG-E Club — has grown significantly in recent years. One student who was taking a leadership position in the student club had a tattoo on his face that he received while in prison, and it carried a particular stigma that would hold him back in integrating into society. But the student couldn't afford the \$500 price tag to have it removed.

Seeing the value that this one act would have on this student's life, President Walthers told the group how he authorized President's Circle funds to help the student with his tattoo removal.

Today, that student is a leader in the BIG-E Club and is headed for a better future.

Beyond meeting student needs, the President's Circle funds help support student awards and recognition, specialized faculty and staff training, community outreach for the college, and capitalizing on unique opportunities—like when NASA wanted to come to campus to educate about and celebrate the launch of its historic Double Asteroid Impact (DART) mission from Vandenberg Space Force Base.

The President's Circle continues to add remarkable value to the Foundation, the college, and the students we educate. For more information on joining the President's Circle, please visit [www.ahcfoundation.org](http://www.ahcfoundation.org).



Post Office Box 5170  
Santa Maria, CA 93456-5170

805-925-2004  
[www.AHCFoundation.org](http://www.AHCFoundation.org)