

Kiwanis Awards Serra HS, Hoover HS and Charter School 2016 Graduating Seniors

The Kiwanis Club and Foundation of Tierrasanta awarded scholarships and Hope of America Awards with scholarships to graduating seniors at Serra High School and Hoover High School and the Charter School of San Diego in Tierrasanta to help defray the costs of tuition, fees, books and supplies and room and board at an institution of higher learning. The club established a scholarship program in 1982 and annually awards three scholarships

through the club foundation to graduating Serra High School students bound for college who best exemplify the high ideals of Kiwanis service including character, leadership, academic and athletic achievement and service to school and community. The foundation selects the recipients based on a review of applications submitted for the awards, including an essay, school transcripts and documentation of school and community activities, service and leadership. The awards also honor former outstanding Kiwanis members now deceased.



Serra HS Scholarship Awards

L to R: Owen Lemm, Natalie Parham and Gabrielle Meza

Owen Lemm received a Kiwanis scholarship named in honor of Vernon D. Bowman in 1986. Owen graduated near the top of his class with a 4.27 GPA. He was a remarkable leader and athlete. He was ASB president as a senior, vice president as a junior and ASB sophomore president, winning Most Outstanding ASB Awards. He was also president of the SDUSD President's Council. He participated in five varsity sports also with notable leadership, setting varsity swim records as a freshman, sophomore and junior. As a junior and senior he was the captain of the varsity swim, water polo team (as senior) and Beast Club Water Polo team. As a sophomore he was the JV basketball MVP and team captain. He was named to the Union Tribune All-Academic Team his senior year. Owen will attend college at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in the fall. The Bowman scholarship awards \$1000 per year for four years of college, a total of \$4,000.

Natalie Parham received a \$1,000 Kiwanis scholarship named in honor of Thomas G. Cherniss in 2000. Natalie was also near the top of her class with a 4.55 GPA. She participated in the Girl Scouts of America (GSA) since the 1st grade and received the GSA highest honor, the coveted Girl Scout Gold Award. She was ASB sophomore class president and freshman class vice president. She was an exceptional athlete and leader, participating in five varsity sports including field hockey, water polo,

lacrosse, swim team and the surf team. She was captain of the water polo and lacrosse teams her junior and senior years and captain of the surf team her senior year. She will attend the University of California, Berkeley in the fall.

Gabrielle Meza received a \$1,000 Kiwanis scholarship named in honor of George V. Paluso in 2006, a member of the club for over 29-years and instrumental in the initiation of the club’s scholarship program. In addition to the general criteria, the Paluso Scholarship awards participation, leadership and excellence in athletic activities. Gabrielle achieved a 4.47 GPA. She has been a member of the Girl Scouts of America (GSA) for over 13-years and received the GSA Bronze and Silver Awards and a nominee for the GSA Gold Award. At school, she served as an ASB commissioner, run blood drivers and was a manager for the varsity boys’ water polo team. She participated in the Greater San Diego Water Polo club, the Beats Water Polo Club, freshman and sophomore volleyball, being awarded the JV most inspirational award her sophomore year. She was on the JV lacrosse team her freshman and sophomore year and girls varsity water polo team all four years of high school and awarded MVP her junior year. Gabrielle was captain of the varsity water polo team her junior and senior years helping to lead the team to runner up in the 2016 CIF championship. She will attend the University of California, Berkeley in the fall.



Charter School Hope of America Award
L to R: Teacher Jennifer Rubio, Kathleen Holmes and Alden Holmes, her father



Serra HS Hope of America Awards
L to R: Kai Sampadian, Jason Ly-Lee and Evelyne Macias

The club presented Kiwanis Hope of America Awards and scholarships to Tierrasanta graduating senior **Kathleen Holmes** of the Charter School of San Diego and Serra High School and Hoover High School graduating seniors. The Serra High recipients were **Jason Ly-Lee**, **Evelyne Macias** and **Kai Sampadian**. The Hoover High recipients were **Kaleb Pineda** and **Vanessa Son**. Kiwanis initiated the Hope of America



Hoover HS Hope of America Awards
L to R: Kaleb Pineda, Vanessa Son and Tierrasanta Kiwanis President-elect Mike George

Award program for all the public schools in Tierrasanta and Murphy Canyon in 1979, now expanded to include all schools assisted by the club and the Tierrasanta campus of the Charter School of San Diego.

The California-Nevada-Hawaii District of Kiwanis International has presented Hope of America Awards since 1984. The award recognizes students selected by school faculty members and administrators to honor and encourage students who have demonstrated academic accomplishment, leadership and good ethical and moral character- all traits of leaders who have sustained our democratic way of life. Such outstanding citizenship traits and consistent devotion to the acquisition of learning skills as exhibited by the award recipients are very important to help guarantee the future of the United States of America. The awards include a plaque, an award letter, a certificate featuring the American's Creed and a \$250 scholarship.