

Don Diego Scholarships award more than \$63K



Some of the 2017 Don Diego Foundation scholarship winners and foundation officials. (Courtesy photo)



Laura Groch Contact Reporter

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More than two dozen San Diego County students were recently awarded scholarships from the Don Diego Scholarship Foundation.

The foundation gave \$63,500 to 26 students who were honored at a gala during the San Diego County Fair, which is in session at the Del Mar Fairgrounds through July 4. Scholarships were open to county students who took part in the fair and/or other fairgrounds-associated activities. Award categories are 4-H, FFA, Exhibitor/Participant and

Employee. Two Vocational/Technical (Voc/Tech) and 10 Junior Livestock Auction scholarships were also awarded.

Sarah Drown of [Ramona](#) received double honors, a \$5,000 FFA award plus the \$5,000 Spanjian Family Scholarship honoring Bob Spanjian, the foundation's "father." A graduate of Ramona High School, Sarah plans a double major in agriculture communications and agriculture business at [Oklahoma State University](#).

Mary Moreno-Christian of Carlsbad, a Carlsbad High School graduate, won the \$5,000 Employee scholarship. She plans to major in engineering at UC Davis.

Kathleen (Kalee) Cummings of San Marcos, a graduate of [Escondido](#) Charter High School, received the \$5,000 4-H scholarship. She plans a business major at Claremont McKenna College.

Kyle James Murray of [Fallbrook](#) received Don Diego's \$5,000 JLA scholarship. A Fallbrook High graduate, he plans to major in chemical engineering at Montana State University.

Jessica Xu of San Diego, valedictorian of her Maranatha Christian Schools class, won a \$5,000 Exhibitor/Participant scholarship. She plans to major in biomedical engineering at MIT.

Winning \$2,500 scholarships are: **Maribel Cota**, Voc Tech, Coronado; **Kathryn Flinn**, JLA, Ramona, Ramona High School; **Hannah Gill**, 4-H, Ramona, Mountain Valley High School; **Katherine Golden**, FFA, Escondido, Poway High School; **Andrew Holem**, Voc/Tech, Fallbrook, Fallbrook High School; **Sophia Kazmierowicz**, Exhibitor/Participant, [Encinitas](#), Canyon Crest Academy; **Mia Rice**, Employee, San Diego, Charter

School of San Diego.

Winners of \$1,500 scholarships are: **Samantha Brandenburg**, 4-H, Encinitas, MiraCosta Adult School; **Chandler Hall**, FFA, [Valley Center](#), Valley Center High School; **Grace Martineau**, JLA, Valley Center, Valley Center High School; **Jessica Zou**, Exhibitor/Participant, San Diego, Westview High School.

Winning \$1,000 scholarships are: **Sierra Branson**, JLA, Santa Ysabel, Julian Charter School; **Sage Drohan**, JLA, Escondido, Escondido High School; **Audrey Greenwood**, JLA, Fallbrook, Oasis High School; **Blake Jackson**, JLA, Lakeside, El Capitan High School; **Alisa Marks**, 4-H, Escondido, San Pasqual High School; **Monsera Martinez**, JLA, [Vista](#), Vista High School; **Katlyn McClellan**, JLA, Ramona, Ramona High School; **Anne Signore**, El Cajon, El Capitan High School; **Valorie Wolf**, JLA, Vista, Vista High; **Marissa Wu**, Exhibitor/Participant, San Diego, Canyon Crest Academy. The Don Diego Scholarship Foundation was named for Don Diego, aka Tom Hernandez, who served as the fair's goodwill ambassador from 1947-1984. Visit www.dondiegoscholarship.org and www.facebook.com/DonDiegoScholarship.