

2025 CCSA Contributors

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President's Letter

Dear Friends of CCSA,

Our association has been connecting people in our community with excellent students since 1970. Like our founders and the original donors, we strive to give as many students as possible assistance in their education after high school. I wish I could thank every donor personally for their support of our high school seniors.

Last year we were able to award 184 scholarships totaling \$362,000. As in the year before, two-thirds of our applicants received awards, something I am continually proud of.

Back on October 7th, we held our annual fundraiser. Thank you to UnWined for hosting our event and thank you to all the people who came out in support of CCSA.

Lastly, I want to say thank you to all our board members at CCSA for their time and effort they give. While they are all unpaid, one member told me "This is his best job". I agree, helping others is very rewarding!

Sean Isom
CCSA President 2025 - 2026



Annual Fundraiser Mixer

Thank you all for joining us at our event last October!

We had well over 100 people join us at UnWined, where we enjoyed appetizers, a no host bar and were entertained by some of our local high school students.

We hope to see you at our next fundraiser in the fall.

The Story of Joey...

Joey was not the most successful student. His grades were mediocre, his SAT was average, he barely participated in sports, he worked a job, yet some might call him a slow starter. Fortunately, Joey was a likable guy and had good relationships with his teachers and counselors.

Since his family wasn't overly involved in his schooling, it was his English teacher who cajoled him into completing the CCSA application. Most parts were easy to complete, but it took his boss and the help of a counselor to get his two reference letters. Because of his averageness, the community overlooked Joey during Screening Night. When CCSA's board was making their final selections, he was overlooked by them too. Yet his counselor stood up for him and said this kid was a diamond in the rough, and she really hoped he would receive a scholarship. CCSA took that advice and awarded him a \$1000 scholarship. He even sent a thank you note back to the donor.

Joey then attended Butte College. He dutifully shared his enrollment info with CCSA and the money was sent to Butte's Financial Aid office. Over the next two years, due to the California Promise Grant, Joey incurred only \$200 in fees. While times were hard for him, the financial aid office held firm that only qualified expenses would be paid. Eventually, he graduated with honors, but thought his money was lost.

Butte College, like all schools we work with, returned the unused money back to CCSA. We reached out to Joey, (love those cell phone numbers!), and he shared he wanted to enroll in a certain trade school, but money was tight. Since the trade school was accredited, we sent the \$800 to their financial aid department and Joey was able to enroll. Joey went on to do well, using his education to build a good technical career.

While this story is fictional, the work of the teachers, counselors, financial aid offices and CCSA people is 'true'. We are all working to help our high school seniors as they graduate and attend any accredited school.

Our History and Purpose of CCSA

Founded in 1970, the Chico Community Scholarship Association (CCSA) has awarded over 5,000 scholarships totaling more than \$3.9 million to graduating high school seniors in our community. CCSA serves as a scholarship clearinghouse—helping match awards to student needs, selecting recipients, and facilitating the process. Donors contributing \$1,000 or more may review applications, interview candidates, and present the awards. Graduating seniors planning to attend accredited colleges or vocational schools can apply through their high school counseling offices or at www.chicoscholarships.org. Awards are announced at each school's year-end Awards Night.

Scholarship Applications

One of the highlights of the CCSA year is reading scholarship applications and nominating students for awards. Some awards are made directly by donors at Donor Night or after Donor Interviews. The remainder (last year that was nearly 180 applications!) are read by CCSA Board members working in teams. Team members rank their applications, then teams meet to agree on their final ranking and to link students to scholarships based on scholarship criteria.

After weeks of reading and discussing applications we feel connected to the students who have shared their high school journey and future plans. Sadly we always have more deserving applicants than funds to make awards for them.

Final Selection Night is the grand finale. CCSA Board members, reading teams and School Counselors attend. The scholarships are called in order of scholarship value. Some candidates have already been donor selected, the remainder are presented by the reading teams and voted on by those present.

Please help by donating funds for our scholarships.

Help From The Counselors

When you were in high school were you required to meet with your counselor once a year? The counselor might ask what your post high school plans were, check your transcript and probably tell you what classes you would still need to take and how many electives you had room for.

The role of high school counselors has changed throughout the years.

Chico Community Scholarship Association (CCSA) could not function without the assistance of the local high school counselors. Did you know counselors from Chico High, CORE Butte, Fairview High, Inspire High, Oak Bridge High and Pleasant Valley High attend our monthly board meetings? Each month they provide us with vital information so we can prepare for the scholarship process. And, they are actively involved in that process. They are not only "cheerleaders" for the students but they are liaisons between the students and CCSA.

The counselors let us know how many seniors are at their respective schools and they post the CCSA application on their school's website. Throughout the first semester the counselors are busy informing students of college application deadlines, what they need with those

applications and reminding them of various colleges, accredited vocational schools and financial assistance workshops.

This school year the application deadline for CCSA scholarships is January 9, 2026. The counselors then get to work making sure each application packet is complete and add the student's transcript to the packet. This is not an easy task when we average about 280 applications per year. Late or incomplete packets are not accepted.

In February CCSA hosts Donor Screening Night. This is a rewarding and busy evening, where donors can participate in the selection of recipients for their scholarship.

Donors review the application packets of students they might be interested in honoring with a scholarship. The counselors attend this event to help organize applications and help us make sure all donors have a chance to review the packets they want to review. If a donor has a question, the counselors are there.

In March there are student interviews. Some donors wish to interview prospective recipients. The counselors are essential in helping us coordinate this.

Then Chico Community Scholarship Association board members get to work reading the student applications. It's a challenging process as we have so many fantastic applicants, but limited funds.

In April CCSA has a closed board session, our Final Selection Night, to determine the awards. This is where we go through the list of available scholarships one by one. We nominate and vote on each recipient. The counselors are there to help with any questions. Their input is indispensable.

In May the high schools have their Awards Night. The counselors plan and arrange their school's special awards evening for students. For CCSA board members, we assist in awarding scholarships! It's rewarding to see the excitement as students hear their name called and walk up to the podium to receive their award. It is a fun night for everyone and the conclusion our scholarship season.

The counselors still have plenty to do before they can bid seniors a final farewell and enjoy a well-deserved summer break. Without their assistance, our task would be monumental. Thank you to not only the current counselors but those who have also helped CCSA in the past.

Endowed Scholarships

- Josephine Arnold Memorial
- Beulah Rebekah Lodge #60
- Dr. Robert V. Bellin Memorial
- Eddie Booth Memorial
- CCSA Endowment
- Joe Crane Memorial
- Dorothy and NT Enloe Memorial
- Wesley Feith Estate
- Growdon Family
- The John S. Habib Trust
- Kathy Leslie Hardin Memorial
- John Nichols Memorial
- Janee Nickerson Memorial
- Paiva Family
- The Payne Family
- Richelieu Memorial
- Schaefer Family
- Larry Seifert Memorial
- Karen & Ernie Washington
- Helen L. White Endowed
- Roger A. Williams Family
- Milly and Dudley Zappettini Memorial

Chico Community Scholarship Association 2025-2026

Event	Date	Time	Location
Happy Hour Mixer	10/7/2025	5:00 - 7:30 pm	UnWined Kitchen & Bar
Applications Due to Counselors	1/9/2026	4:00 pm	School Counseling Offices
Screening Night for donors who wish to select recipients	2/12/2026	5:30 - 8:30 pm	Enloe Conference Center
Donor / Student Interviews	3/10-3/12, 2026	11:30 am - 4:00 pm	PV & CHS
Awards Nights	May		

The board meets once a month September through June

CCSA Honorary Advisors

CCSA is grateful and proud to have the continued support of our Honorary Advisors:

- Syl Lucena

Alberta Simic

Jan Donohue

Diana Lobosky
- Steve Schaefer

Tom Hughes

Deanna Lares



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