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Kent Colwell Scholarship YEAR

ANNIVERSARY REPORT

Letter from Susan Neufeld, Vice President

Dear Friends,

We are happy to share the Kent Colwell Scholarship: Five-Year Anniversary Report with you to highlight the impact that these transformative scholarship investments have had on recipients. As of summer 2022, we awarded 13 scholars a total of \$130,000 in funds to complete their education in business, finance, and related areas of study. This is our biggest award to date and signals BRIDGE's ongoing commitment to supporting residents' education and earnings prospects. Research shows that the median weekly earnings for those with the highest levels of educational attainment are more than triple those with the lowest level. Simply put: the more you learn, the more you earn.

I'd also like to extend a special thank you to the expansive team that has made this work possible, including our generous individual and institutional donors; our BRIDGE Board of Directors and Executive Leadership; our hardworking BRIDGE staff (including past and present Scholarship Administrators and staff volunteers who compose the Application Review Committee); and our evaluator, Harder+Company Community Research, who helped our team measure and understand the impact of the program.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Susan Neufeld". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Susan" and last name "Neufeld" clearly distinguishable.

Susan Neufeld,

Vice President, Evaluation, Resident Program Design,
Resource Development, and Community Development

Overview

BRIDGE created the Kent Colwell Scholarship to honor a longtime friend and Board member, Kent L. Colwell, who passed away in January 2016. Kent served diligently as Chair of the BRIDGE Audit Committee and as a member of the Finance and Projects committees.



Kent L. Colwell

In that spirit, BRIDGE designed the scholarship specifically for residents pursuing degrees in business programs, including but not limited to accounting, business administration, finance and marketing. Scholars are eligible for up to four years of funding—\$10,000 each year—to use toward tuition, books, childcare and other expenses that will help them with their studies. The scholarship is open to all residents living in California, Oregon and Washington BRIDGE communities. The program officially launched in 2017. In its first year, BRIDGE awarded five residents scholarships.

“Kent was a lifelong learner and believed that education could open many doors to great opportunities in life. It brings our family great joy to know that BRIDGE Housing honors his legacy by supporting its residents in their quest for a higher education.”

– The Colwell Family

Recipient Spotlight



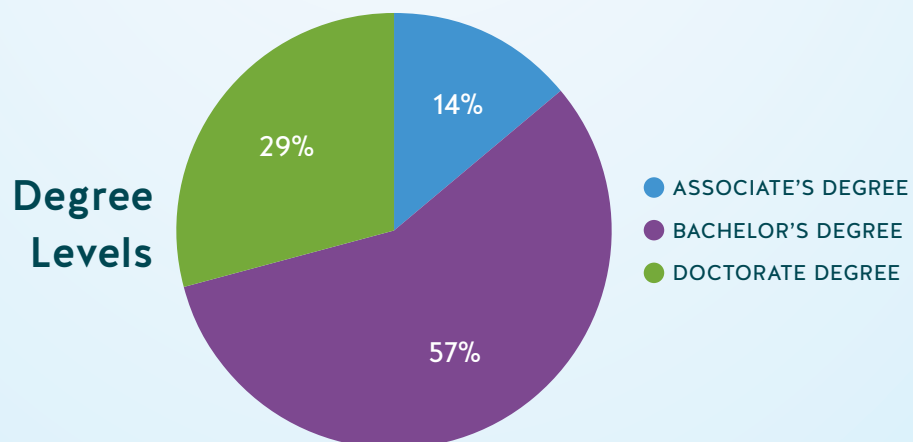
Brandon Pierce-Johnson

Brandon Pierce-Johnson always dreamed of going to college. But when his mother was diagnosed with an acute form of multiple sclerosis, “I threw my childhood out the window and took on jobs to help with medical expenses,” he said. “I cut grass, cleaned garages and attics, washed cars, whatever I could do to help our family.”

After high school, he landed a full-time job and eventually married Jessykah, his childhood crush. They live in BRIDGE’s Marea Alta community, where their children have room to grow and play. “Little did I know that our apartment would come with a scholarship opportunity. When I learned that I had been selected as an awardee for the Kent Colwell Scholarship, I found myself believing that dreams can actually come true!”

With support from the scholarship, Brandon graduated in January 2020 from the University of Phoenix with an A.A. degree in business. He earned a 3.59 GPA and was inducted into two national honor societies, and currently works for a professional property management company.

“ This scholarship has lifted that dark cloud from my dream of a college education. I want to show my children that they can reach their goals in life if they do just that... reach.”



Recipient Spotlights

Kimberly Ornelas is currently pursuing a dual Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice and Business Administration from Sacramento State University. Kimberly has been working since she was 14 years old to support her immigrant parents. Receiving the Colwell Scholarship has helped Kimberly pursue her dreams to start a non-profit organization that focuses on mentoring the youth in her BRIDGE Housing community. Kimberly's motivation is to make her family proud and to show others in her community that education is a great path to success.



Kimberly Ornelas



Ulises Olvera Grant

Ulises Olvera Grant obtained dual Associate's Degrees in Business Administration ('18) and Economics ('17) from Santa Rosa Junior College. But after an on-the-job injury, he had to put his education goals on pause. Four years later—and both a Sonoma State University acceptance letter and Colwell Scholarship in hand—he is back on track to pursuing his dream. This fall, Ulises started his Bachelor's program in Business Administration, where he is focusing on accounting and finance. Growing up in a low-income family, he is determined to honor his family and late-brother by being the first in his family to attend and graduate from a four-year university. When we asked him one word to describe what the scholarship means to him, he said, "hope."

Scholarship Awards

Since the program launched in 2017, BRIDGE has more than doubled the number of awards its distributed.



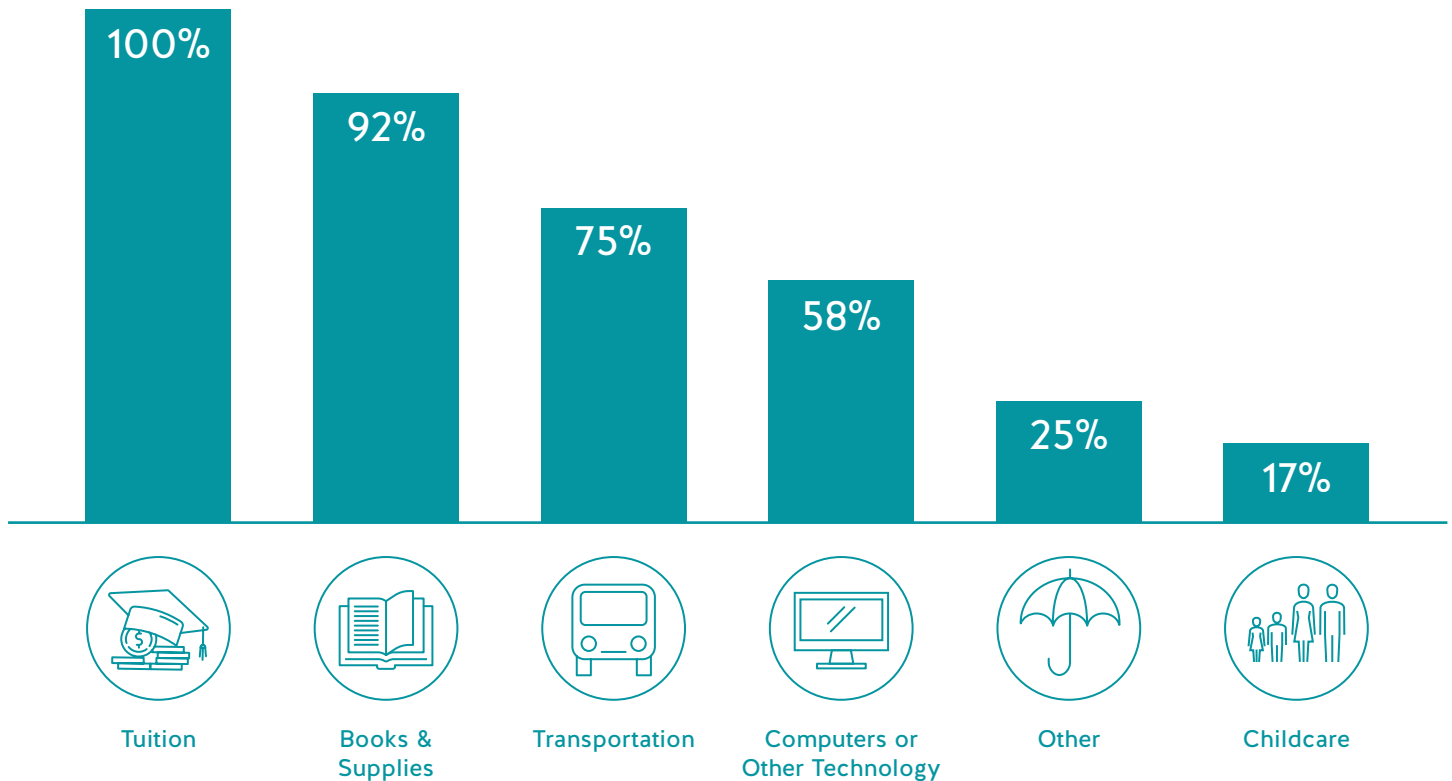
“ I’m always communicating to my daughter how important it is to start and finish something. So just having this degree now, it’s like, ‘Hey, I did it. I know school is not easy.’ ...Just seeing it through helps me be an example for my kids.”

– Colwell Scholarship Recipient

The Impact

All recipients shared that they worried less about money and the financial strain on their families.

The program provides flexible funding, covering expenses not typically allowed by financial aid and education programs. For example, while a majority of recipients used their scholarships to pay for tuition, books and supplies, and computers or other technology, many recipients shared they used their scholarship funds to pay for transportation and childcare.



The average award is \$8,067, which aligns with the estimated cost of tuition per year for in-state public university (\$8,192 in California). In speaking with recipients, many shared how the scholarship was enough to cover their expenses. Still, one—who is pursuing their doctorate—shared they needed to take out a small student loan.

Breadth of Impact

We asked scholars how the scholarship has impacted them and they said:



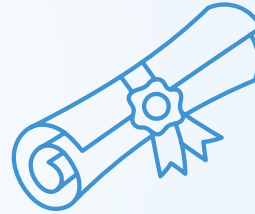
“I was able to go to school full-time instead of part-time!”



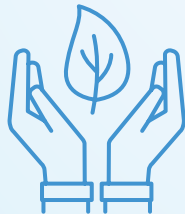
“I finished my program early by taking summer courses!”



“I was able to take on internships and on-campus leadership opportunities!”



“I was motivated to apply for other scholarships!”



“The financial support has taken a lot of anxiety, worry, mental stress off of me.”



“Getting this scholarship actually gave me more confidence.”

Scholarship Recipients

2017-2021

Ashley Gonzales
Brandon Pierce-Johnson
Catherean Allen
David Parsons
Diane Akinson
Durham Demetrius
Ethan Phwan
Freronnta Allen
Jalil Sadat
John Metzger
Joseph Slocum
Kimberly Ornelas
Kristina Metzger
Lee Hubbard III
Luke Yoda
Mark Paisey
Sonny Li
Tory Carter

Congratulations to our 2022-2023 Scholarship Recipients

Alex Kuang
Ashley Gonzalez
Catherean Allen
Ethan Phwan
Freronnta Allen
Jalil Sadat
Jennifer Loferski
Joseph Slocum
Kim Ornelas
Luke Yoda
Raef Makrai
Tory Carter
Ulises Olvera Galvan

“ [I] want to be a doctor...So hopefully that will break the cycle of poverty in my family, and open new opportunities to people in my community and recognize that they also can do it”

– Colwell Scholarship Recipient

Our Donors

BRIDGE is grateful for each and every donor who has helped to make our Colwell Scholarship Program possible, and we would like to give special thanks to those who have given \$10,000 or more to support this program. Please see their names listed below.

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Ken and Deborah Novack	Walsh Construction Co.
Lubin Olson & Niewiadomski LLP	

No gift is too small. A contribution to our scholarships can help pay for tuition, supplies, childcare and other expenses. To make a gift to the Scholarship programs, visit us online at bridgehousing.com/donate or contact Susan Neufeld, VP of Evaluation, Resident Program Design, Resource Development and Community Development at sneufeld@bridgehousing.com.

“I just wanted support, just a support system that I would gain from this scholarship...I knew that I could count on them [BRIDGE staff].”

– Colwell Scholarship Recipient



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