

LAPRAF Scholarship Winners 2025

Congratulations to the LAPRAF 2025 Scholarship Winners!

Meet the winners of the Los Angeles Police Relief and Assistance Foundation (LAPRAF) scholarship program. Seven winners of the \$10,000 college scholarships were chosen from a pool of 70 applicants based on their academic excellence, leadership and dedication to community service. Each student will receive \$2,500 annually for four years.



Grant Cobos

Grant Cobos

Grant is a graduate of Grace High School and plans to study biomedical engineering at Rice University. Fascinated by the ability of machinery to compensate for debilitating injuries, Grant designed a foot orthosis for people living with cerebral palsy to correct movement habits in his design

and modeling class. Through an Apple Engineering internship, he also helped develop a “smart” dumbbell prototype for people with exercise disabilities.

He also completed a NASA STEM Enhancement & Earth Science internship and was a pit crew member on the only teen team competing in professional Pro-2 racing. He was the sole perfect-score applicant selected for the Chicano Youth Leadership Project statewide leadership conference. In addition, Grant worked with disadvantaged kids through For the Need Foundation. A proficient musician, he plays multiple instruments.

With the goal of working in prosthetics, Grant chose Rice University for its cutting-edge science and engineering programs and emphasis on interdisciplinary studies.

(Continued on next page)

LAPRAF Scholarship Winners 2025 (continued)



Lauren Gutierrez

Lauren Gutierrez

Lauren graduated from The Webb Schools and will attend Boston University. Passionate about global and humanitarian issues, she plans to study business administration and finance and work to develop ethical business practices, address economic barriers and increase the resilience and sustainability of communities.

Lauren represented The Webb Schools at the Groton School for the Global Program for International Exchange. She heard personal accounts from residents of countries such as Botswana and India about the gravity of environmental and human rights challenges. As vice president of the Thrifting and Sustainability Club at The Webb Schools, she implemented collections to local thrift stores to encourage both community support and repurposing of unwanted clothing and accessories.

Lauren was drawn to Boston University's commitment to ethical leadership, research and social responsibility. She is excited to continue her community support through the Student Food Rescue, which helps with food insecurities. She also plans to study international relations abroad.



Natalia Gutierrez

Natalia Gutierrez

A graduate of West Ranch High School, Natalia plans to study nursing at Azusa Pacific University. She was drawn to nursing during the COVID-19 pandemic when her grandmother, who had been diagnosed with cancer, was unable to have visitors in the hospital. Natalia was deeply moved by how nurses not only cared for her grandmother's medical needs but also provided emotional support, respect and love.

Throughout high school, Natalia committed to academic excellence, sports and community service. She was active in the National Honor Society and California Scholarship Federation and played varsity soccer. Through the Girl Scouts and community organizations, she contributed time and energy to food drives, mentorship programs, church outreach and more.

Becoming a nurse aligns with Natalia's faith and serving others is her calling. She chose Azusa Pacific because it is nationally recognized for its excellence in preparing nurses to provide care rooted in compassion and dedication, reflecting a Christ-inspired level of service.



Audrey Kim

Audrey Kim

Audrey, a graduate of Palos Verdes High School, will attend the University of Chicago. Drawn to understanding how laws and policies shape society, she plans to major in economics or political science/public policy and advocate for equitable policies that can create meaningful change.

At Palos Verdes, Audrey was a board member for Model United Nations and president of the Leadership for Women Club. She has interviewed influential female mentors, including CEOs and LAPD Deputy Chief Ruby Flores, to empower female students to seek higher career opportunities. She co-founded Musical Steps, a nonprofit community organization dedicated to providing free, accessible music education resources to underserved communities. She also participated in several civic engagement programs and was an active student ambassador of the Peninsula Education Foundation.

Audrey chose the University of Chicago for its emphasis on interdisciplinary learning, strong public policy and economics programs, and opportunities for leadership development and community engagement.



Sadie Monterroso

Sadie Monterroso

Sadie graduated from La Serna High School and will attend San Diego State University (SDSU). She plans to study business administration/human resources management and pursue a management career, as she enjoys working with and uplifting people.

For the past four years, Sadie has volunteered with Go Serve Love, which helps underprivileged families transition into permanent living arrangements. She was also president of her school's National Alliance on Mental Illness club, where she aspired to create a safe space for students to be open about mental health struggles. As captain of the tennis team, Sadie created a custom t-shirt fundraiser that allowed the team to purchase uniforms for 18 girls and buy new equipment.

Sadie was attracted to SDSU's Fowler College of Business programs, which encourage hands-on experience as well as teamwork and leadership skills. She plans to seek internship and mentorship opportunities and, eventually, make an impact through a leadership role in the campus Women in Business club.



Jaenna Sambilay

Jaenna Sambilay

Jaenna is a graduate of the Marshall Fundamental School. She plans to study architecture at California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo (SLO).

Through an internship with the City of Pasadena that combined her passions for architecture and environmental sustainability, Jaenna researched city artwork and artist biographies, and photographed and documented public art pieces for the city website. After the Eaton Fire destroyed several friends' houses and devastated a community, Jaenna saw building new homes as a way to blend architecture with compassion and kindness.

Jaenna's involvement with school and community includes volunteering at The Huntington Library as a Spotlight Talk Host and Events Coordinator and refereeing with the American Youth Soccer Organization. She played varsity volleyball for four years and served as team captain for two.

She chose SLO for its high ranking and "learn by doing" philosophy, and because SLO is accredited by the National Architecture Accrediting Board.



Ella Townsend

Ella Townsend

Ella graduated from Fairmont Preparatory Academy and plans to study international relations at Harvard University. She believes in duty to community and advocating for those who cannot do so for themselves. Her goal is to become a diplomat and fulfill her dream of protecting human rights internationally, weakening corrupt governments, and making education more inclusive for the disadvantaged.

Throughout high school, Ella promoted healthy, drug-free lifestyles to youth. Through her involvement with numerous school and community organizations, she has been an advocate for mental health, drug prevention and more. She founded YIELD, a student-run 501(c)3 organization that fights education inequality. Named a California Nonprofit of the Year, YIELD supports marginalized youth through financial sponsorship, mentorship and partnership with social services.

Ella is looking forward to attending Harvard, exploring intellectual frontiers and conducting research that benefits the public interest. ■

LAPRA 2024 Annual Report

by Darius Trugman, Treasurer

U.S. stocks achieved another positive year in 2024 driven by the FED lowering interest rates and continued positive earnings of U.S. companies. The S&P 500 posted a gain of more than 20% for the second year in a row, which is the first time this has occurred since the late 1990s. The Magnificent Seven stocks (Mag 7), Amazon, Apple, Tesla, Nvidia, etc., were the primary drivers of the market's overall return (i.e., Nvidia, returned 171% in 2024). The performance of the Mag 7 stocks was also the primary reason growth stocks again outperformed value stocks. Although Mag 7 stocks did represent an outsized contribution to the return of the S&P 500 (the S&P 500 is used as a general proxy for the stock market), there were other individual stocks that contributed to the overall return. For example, Vistra, a utility company, was positive 258% and United Airlines was up 135% compared to Nvidia's return of 171%. The Fed lowered interest rates three times in 2024 totaling a full percentage point in September, November, and December. The reductions, which were the first since the COVID pandemic in March of 2020, came amid easing inflation and mixed readings from the job market.

The Association returned 8.8% in 2024 which was in line with expectations given its conservative asset allocation, i.e. 45% equities, 40% bonds, 10% alternatives (real estate, private equity, etc.), and 5% to cash. The portfolio is constructed to protect capital demonstrated when markets were negative in 2022. The Association's asset allocation is reviewed annually to ensure it is in compliance with its investment policy. As of December 31, 2024, Association assets totaled \$98,774,774. ■

See the 2024 Summary
Financial Statement on
page 5. →

LAPRA Annual Meeting

Information about the annual meeting of the Los Angeles Police Relief Association, Inc. is shown below.

Date: Tuesday, December 9, 2025

Time: 9:00 a.m. PT

Zoom Link: <https://bit.ly/annual-meeting-zoom-link>

Zoom Meeting ID: 82423186479

Passcode: 317657

The President of LAPRA will report on the general affairs of LAPRA and the Treasurer will report on LAPRA finances.

Los Angeles Police Relief Association, Inc.

Summary of Financial Statement Statement of Net Assets Available for Benefits and Benefit Obligations December 31, 2024

NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS	Self-Insured and Insured Plans	Emergency Relief Fund	Total
ASSETS			
Investments, at Fair Value			
• Money Market Funds	\$ 2,484,082	-	\$ 2,484,082
• Mutual Funds	87,917,927	-	96,290,690
• Cash in Interest Bearing Accounts	18,320,000	-	18,320,000
TOTAL INVESTMENTS	<u>108,722,009</u>	-	<u>117,094,772</u>
Receivables	<u>358,320</u>	<u>\$ 44,757</u>	<u>403,077</u>
Prepaid Expenses and Deposits	127,513	-	127,513
Obligation Reserves	114,293,552	-	122,395,746
Cash	93,068	-	93,068
Net Property and Equipment	<u>7,303,600</u>		<u>7,303,600</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>230,898,062</u>	<u>44,757</u>	<u>247,417,776</u>
LIABILITIES			
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	326,226	-	326,226
Advanced Contributions and Deferred Income	11,340,480	-	11,340,480
Police Charity Plan	101,251	-	101,251
Pension Plan Liability	<u>698,585</u>	-	<u>698,585</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>12,466,542</u>		<u>12,466,542</u>
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS	<u>218,431,520</u>	<u>44,757</u>	<u>234,951,234</u>
BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS			
Amounts Currently Payable for Participants	1,021,613	-	1,021,613
Amounts Due to Insurance Companies	18,604,199	-	18,604,199
Dental Claims Liability	895,130		895,130
Paid-Up Life Insurance for Participants	1,465,739	-	1,465,739
Estimated Future Death, Policy Surrender and Sick Benefits	<u>35,250,191</u>	-	<u>35,250,191</u>
TOTAL BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS	<u>57,236,872</u>	-	<u>57,236,872</u>
EXCESS OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS OVER BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS	<u>\$ 161,194,648</u>	<u>\$ 44,757</u>	<u>\$ 177,714,362</u>

LAPRA Retirement Guide Available Online

If you are planning to retire from the LAPD in the next three to six months, be sure to download the LAPRA Guide to Retirement at www.lapra.org/support/documents/lapra-retirement-guide-2025.pdf.

The Guide will help answer many of your questions including:

- What benefits am I eligible for as a retiree?
- What do I need to do to ensure I have health coverage after I retire?
- How will the cost of my coverage change?
- How do I stay informed of any benefit changes as a retiree?



We encourage you to plan ahead about three months prior to your retirement to begin the process. Contact us at benefits@lapra.org or call 213-674-3701, press 2 to speak to a Benefits Representative. Note that you do not need to come into the LAPRA office. A face-to-face meeting is not required. ■

The GUARDIAN is a periodic publication for members of the Los Angeles Police Relief Association. All rights reserved. Members with specific concerns are urged to contact Diane Whisnant, Executive Director at dianew@lapra.org, and she will forward your concerns to the appropriate Director.

Los Angeles Police Relief Association Board of Directors — 2025

President

John Shah

**Vice President &
Retiree Liason**

Jim Mateer

Vice President

Luq Watkins

Secretary

Kristy Brown

Treasurer

Darius Trugman

Directors

Dana Berns

Tony Garcia

Saudia Hutchins

Season Nunez

Jules Sohn

Gerald Woodyard

Look inside to learn
about the seven high
school seniors who
won a 2025 LAPRAF
Academic Scholarship.



Los Angeles Police Relief Association, Inc.
600 North Grand Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90012

LAPRA

PRESORT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT # 906
SAN DIEGO, CA