

South Bay Chinese Service Club Annual Scholarship Banquet - April 20, 2016

(Submitted by Joe Woo, SBCSC Scholarship Committee Chairman)



On Wednesday, April 20, 2016, the South Bay Chinese Service Club (SBCSC) awarded \$18,500 in scholarships to graduating high school seniors of Chinese descent at the 47th annual SBCSC Scholarship Banquet held at the Union City Mayflower Restaurant. SBCC President Randy Sabado greeted the graduates and praised them for their outstanding academic records and participation in community activities. Honored guests

included Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty, Mayor of Union City Carol Dutra-Vernaci, Mayor of Fremont Bill Harrison, Vice-Mayor of Fremont Lily Mei, and Fremont City Councilmember Suzanne Chan.

The Award ceremony commenced with a short video showing the history of the South Bay Chinese Club with highlights of club activities over the past 12 months. The video ends with highlights from some of the previous scholarship award banquets and keynote speakers.

The graduating students and their parents were addressed by keynote speaker, **Fiona Ma**, Chairwoman of the State Board of Equalization, District 2. In her speech, Ms. Ma shared with the students how she transitioned from working in the finance industry into something she has always wanted to do – to run for office and serve the



2016 SBCSC Scholarship Award Recipients

people. She encouraged the graduating seniors to follow their passion and leverage in what they have learned from school. Using herself as an example, she showed the students how her accounting background has served her well in her current position in the State Board of Equalization. At the end of her speech, Ms. Ma presented Certificates of Recognition to all award recipients.



Keynote Speaker Fiona Ma addressing the graduating seniors and guests

Swalwell; Carolina Salaza, representing State Assemblymember Bill Quirk, and Meriam

Reynosa, representing State Senator Bob Wieckowski. Although unable to attend the banquet, U.S. Congressman Mike Honda, State Assemblymember Kansen Chu, all provided Certificates of Recognition ahead of time to be distributed to the students during the award ceremony.

The 19 scholarship winners this year is an impressive group of scholars representing 6 high schools. Their average unweighted GPA is 3.8 and the average weighted GPA is 4.2. The Award recipients have taken a total of 229 AP classes and honor classes. Together they have amassed 4,639 community service hours. In this group, there are 2 National Merit Finalists, 5 AP Scholars, and 5 students with perfect unweighted 4.0 GPA's.

The 2016 SBCSC Scholarship Recipients are:

\$2,000 Scholarship Recipients

- Nina Chang, Irvington High School – Howard Tom Memorial Award for Top Honors
- Allison Du, American High School – Bing J. Gee Memorial Award for Citizenship
- Jared Lee, Dougherty Valley High School – Dick F. Szeto Memorial Award for Governance
- Alan Huang, James Logan High School – Robert Vun Yau Memorial Award for Performance Arts

\$1,000 Scholarship Recipients

- Andrew Chen, Mission San Jose High School – Karl Ngan Memorial Award for Leadership
- Isaac Tong, James Logan High School – CBC Award for Community Service
- Emily Gosti, Mission San Jose High School – York Gin Memorial Award for Scholar Athlete
- Jenny Chiu, American High School – Fremont Bank Award for Environmental Science
- Sophia Cheng, American High School – Comcast Award for Communication

\$500 Best Essay Award

- Sophia Cheng, American High School – Dutra Enterprises Award for Best Essay

\$500 Scholarship Recipients

- Deborah Chen, Mission San Jose High School
- Iris Cheung, American High School
- Ji Guan, Irvington High School
- Sarah Jensen, American High School
- Kelsey Leon, Mission San Jose High School
- Felicia Lin, American High School
- Yuechen Liu, American High School
- Monica Wen, Washington High School
- Wan-Ting Wu, Irvington High School
- Levana Zhang, Irvington High School

The South Bay Chinese Club (SBCC) was formed in 1965 in order to preserve the culture and customs of the Chinese heritage, to foster and encourage better understanding of civic responsibilities and the American way of life, and to promote general welfare of the community. In 1984, the Club formed the South Bay Chinese Service Club (SBCSC), a California non-profit organization, in pursuit of community services such as the Scholarship Program. The annual Scholarship Program began in 1970 by providing two scholarship of \$100 each to graduating high school seniors of Chinese descent. The primary funding for the Scholarship Program is obtained through direct solicitation of donations and through an annual fundraising golf tournament held in May each year. Scholarship information is available on the Club's website: www.southbaychineseclub.org.



2016 SBCSC Scholarship Award Recipients with SBCC Club Officers and VIP guests

Front row (L to R): Willy Yichoy (Scholarship Committee member), Isaac Tong (James Logan), Jared Lee (Dougherty Valley), Alan Huang (James Logan), Andrew Chen (Mission San Jose)

Middle row (L to R): Lily Mei (Fremont Vice-Mayor), Kelsey Leon (Mission San Jose), Emily Gosti (Mission San Jose), Felicia Lin (American), Allison Du (American), Levana Zhang (Irvington), Wan-Ting Wu (Irvington), Sophia Cheng (American), Yuechen Liu (American)

Back row (L to R): Joe Woo (Scholarship Committee Chairman), Sue Chan (Fremont Councilmember), Carol Dutra-Vernaci (Union City Mayor), Mallory DeLauro (representing Congressman Eric Swalwell), Ji Guan (Irvington), Nina Chang (Irvington), Iris Cheung (American), Sarah Jensen (American), Jenny Chiu (American), Dr. Clifton Der Bing (Scholarship Committee Co-Chair), Deborah Chen (Mission San Jose), Randy Sabado (SBCC President), Scott Haggerty (Alameda Co. Supervisor), Meriam Reynosa (representing State Senator Bob Wieckowski)