

Carollo Sponsors Dr. Espanola Jackson Award



Carollo proudly named an academic scholarship in honor of Dr. Espanola Jackson (1933-2016), a champion of community-based activism. The Award

is given to a student in Bayview Hunters Point who has demonstrated the respect for education, justice, and leadership embodied by Dr. Jackson in her lifetime. The 2022 recipient is Marionna Harris.

Dr. Jackson was known as “Mother Jackson” in her chosen community of Bayview Hunters Point. While dedicated to improving the quality of life for the underserved throughout San Francisco, Dr. Jackson raised six children and mentored countless more. Her coalition building and grassroots advocacy were relentlessly positive; when confronted with a challenge, Dr. Jackson encouraged win-win solutions. Establishment of a City College campus in Bayview Hunters Point, a city-wide free lunch program, and the San Francisco Human Rights Commission were all a direct result of her engagement. She was also a longtime advocate for affordable housing. Dr. Jackson’s work to support the elderly, women, Native People, LGBTQ+ and the African-American communities was legend; six mayors of San Francisco recognized her essential role in the life of the City with recognition and respect.

Carollo Funds Scholarships for Future Engineers

Ready for some good news? A Carollo-funded scholarship has helped three promising San Francisco youth head off to college. These enthusiastic young people – all planning to study engineering – have overcome major obstacles to earn their admissions to great schools. Their Carollo scholarships have helped them make a bold leap into their futures.

All three students were chosen by the Maisin Scholars Program, which offers \$4000 four-year awards to select graduating seniors in the San Francisco Unified School District. In addition to the financial awards, The Maisin Scholars program offers counseling, orientation, internship opportunities, and support for students navigating the complexity of this new phase of education. Carollo has sponsored student scholarships each year for the past five years as a cornerstone of its Community Benefits contribution. Meet Carollo scholars Gene, Marionna, and Steven, whose determination and optimism will give you hope.

Eugene Campini, who goes by Gene, has always been interested in flight. He remembers growing up in Kansas, which he describes as, “Aviation Central – a lot of engineers, the Wright Brothers, and the headquarters of Boeing and Spirit Airlines.” With his middle school robotics team, he began programming Lego Mindstorms to navigate obstacle courses, competing in challenges sponsored by Wichita State University. Invited to design a passion project in his freshman year of high school, he built a 4-foot remote-controlled plane out of foamboard, and delighted in its take off, “for about eight seconds before it crashed into a fence,” he admits, “thanks to both me and the weather. But it was still a fun project.”

When family challenges compelled him to relocate to San Francisco’s Mission High School, he took up origami as a hobby, “instead of being on my phone.” Studying YouTube tutorials and practicing intricate pleating and folding on his own, he enjoys “experimenting with compliant mechanisms, making materials bend or flex, and designing parts to have a mechanical function without any moving parts.” Encouraged by his art teacher at Mission High, he

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— GENE CAMPINI



builds ever more elaborate structures, and occasionally posts images on his Instagram page. “I realize I am able to focus on something for four or five hours at a time, and that is a skill. I play with something, find the dark and light edges, think about the folds I should use, and iterate on failures. It’s sort of like art or architecture.”

Exploring the field of space remains Gene’s ideal. “It has always been a huge aspiration for me to work in rocketry; satellites would be a dream.” He intends to study Mechanical Engineering at San Francisco State and is eager to explore internships and opportunities to bring him further into the engineering ‘fold.’

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The Maisin Scholar Class of 2022 gathers in front of the War Memorial Building before the awards ceremony.

Carollo Volunteers Support Scholarship Selection

How are these scholarship winners selected? The Maisin Scholars Program is administered by the San Francisco Education Fund, a nonprofit organization dedicated to securing educational equity for the 54,000 public school students in the City. The Scholars program, funded in 2001 by the Maisin Foundation, offers financial support, academic and career counseling, internships and professional opportunities, and encouragement and direction for underserved high school graduates moving on to four year college, two year community college, or vocational school. The program deliberately seeks out students who are dedicated and hardworking, but who may not have access to academically elite scholarships, students whose life circumstances or immigration status might have held them back. Often these are the first students in their families to attend college.

In 2018 Carollo committed to support the Maisin Program by offering two four-year scholarships to students each year. Including Carollo's engineering-focused awardees, 79 SF public and

charter school seniors were admitted to the Maisin Program in 2022. This year, 279 students completed the application, which included an essay and teacher recommendations. 150 were invited for online interviews, where they were encouraged to explain their unique situation and share their hopes and dreams. The 79 winning high school students were lauded in an awards ceremony and reception at the Green Room of the SF War Memorial Building in front of a joyful audience of family and friends.

Maisin offers students much more than funding for post-secondary education. A crucial support system, the program provides much-needed guidance through all four years: how-to workshops, college advising, access to internships, career exploration, and the shared experience of cohort meetings. The three-person staff, led by Program Manager Perry Im, gets to know each student and follows them throughout the ups and downs of their academic journey. This was especially crucial during the two years of Covid shut

downs, when students returning home needed access to Wi-Fi, computers, and extra encouragement to stay on track.

Volunteers are essential to the scholarship selection process. Over 100 individuals, including two Carollo employees and 10 Maisin award alumni participated in reading applications and interviewing candidates. To maintain consistency, interviewers are supported by a comprehensive Interviewer's Guide and scoring rubric. Every application is read and scored by two people, and interviews have two or three volunteers meeting the students online, asking the same set of questions designed to illuminate the student's home situation and academic aspirations. Carollo's **Rachel Duncan** and **Lisa Browning** were able to participate in the selection process, which took approximately 10 hours of individual reading and online participation. Said one volunteer reader, "I loved learning about the individual students and seeing how this scholarship could truly change their life. It was a thrilling process that I will gladly repeat."

Marionna Harris plans to study Electrical Engineering at Sacramento State. Her interest in engineering began in middle school when she joined the robotics club and was assigned to the electrical team. "Once I found something I liked to do, I got excited about school." A lifelong native of the Bayview Hunters Point neighborhood, Marionna is the youngest of five siblings and lives with her mother and brother. Marionna is the recipient of Carollo's Dr. Espanola Jackson Award, (see P.1) She attends Kipp San Francisco College Preparatory School and participated in the 100% College Prep program before the Covid shut-down. She is also an avid volleyball player.



"I'd like to design cameras, or maybe work on Teslas or Google cars."
— MARIONNA HARRIS

Marionna enjoys reading and mentions books by Toni Morrison; "The Bluest Eye," is her favorite novel. Outside of school, she and a group of friends explore the Bay Area, using BART as the starting point for their outings. Berkeley's Shattuck Avenue is a favorite destination, offering a full range of cafes, shops, and eclectic offerings to discover. She says her friends describe her as, "funny and quiet, with a good sense of humor." Marionna adds, "I am energetic and always happy." Winning the Carollo scholarship, she says, made her family, "really proud. They were both excited and thankful!"

Marionna's ideal career is in electrical design. "I'd like to design cameras, or maybe work on Teslas or Google cars." She will be living with an aunt when she attends Sacramento State and admits, "I'm a little bit excited and a little bit scared." As the first in her family to go to college, she is grateful for the way this scholarship allows her to light the spark of her dreams.



"I like to keep my family close... because that's the most important thing."
— STEVEN RAMIREZ

Steven Ramirez plans to study Mechanical Engineering at San Jose State, and thinks it is, "really cool to see people build stuff." He got the building impulse early, joining his high school robotics club and participating in tournaments. He loves how robotics helps with, "understanding how movement works." His specialty is helping the team to figure out the components which make the robotic devices last through the competition.

Steven attended Kipp San Francisco College Preparatory School, where his favorite subjects were English and Psychology. He enjoys reading about Greek Mythology. He participated in the soccer team but was sidelined when Covid shut down the games. He dreams about building a racing car, and watches YouTube videos to learn everything he can about building, maintaining, and driving them. Steven is passionate about learning new things. When a friend aspired to become a chef, he practiced by teaching Steven how to cook, "and then my friend thanked me for being open to the experience."

The scholarship was a tremendous relief to his family, he notes. "My mom was working multiple jobs and was so stressed, worrying about how to pay for my college. She was really happy when I won." Steven is the first in his family to attend college and hopes his younger brother and sister follow in his footsteps. "I'll tell them to stay in school, and that grades matter. And do lots of activities because colleges look at them, too." Despite moving to the dormitories of San Jose State this fall, his ties to his family are essential. "I like to keep my family close," he says, "because that's the most important thing."

Calling All Volunteers!

Volunteers from any position in Carollo are encouraged to participate – please contact **Summer Bundy**, sbundy@carollo.com to share your interest in reading and interviewing next Spring for the 2023 scholarship awards.

Help Make College Dreams Come True!

Carollo by the Numbers 2022

SAN FRANCISCO EDUCATION FUND MAISIN SCHOLARSHIPS

Financial Contribution	\$30,000
Volunteer Hours	21
Contribution Value	\$2125
Total	\$32,125