



SCHOLARSHIP

Award Night

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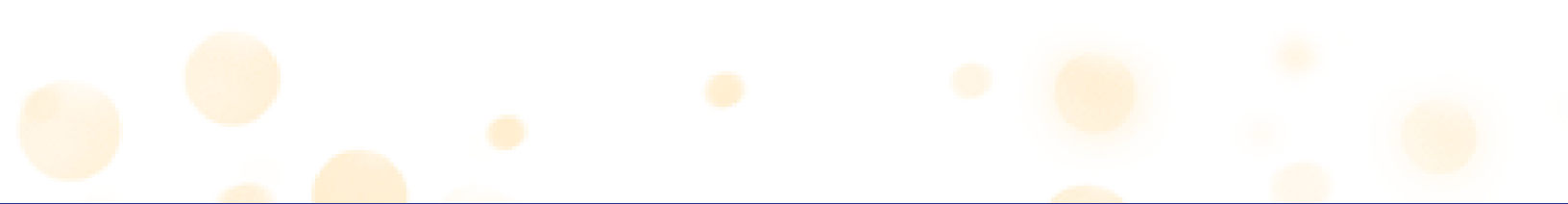
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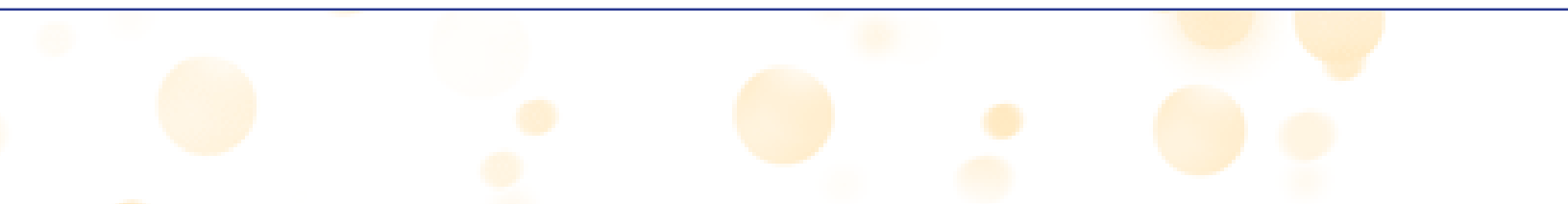
6:00PM – 7:30PM

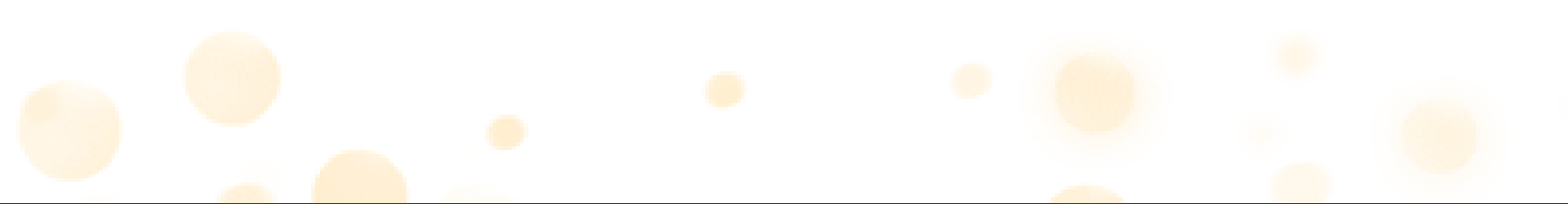
Carver Center | 400 Westchester Ave. Port Chester





Schedule of Activities





Welcome Remarks

Anne Bradner, Chief Executive Officer

Daniel Bonnet, Chief Program Officer

Presentation of Scholarship Awards

Laura Iverson, Co-Chair of Scholarship Committee

Felipe Orozco, Co-Chair of Scholarship Committee

Scholarship Awards

Carver Graduate Commendation

SoundWaves Scholarship

Larchmont/Mamaroneck & Port Chester/Rye Brook

Lions Scholarship

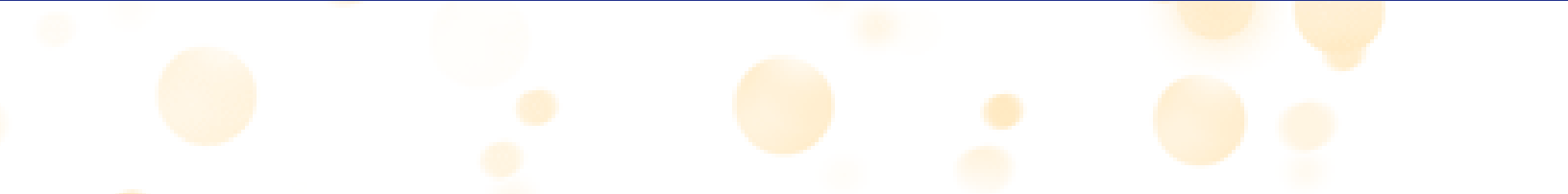
George Washington Carver Scholarship

June & Ho Park Scholarship

Feffi Stiassni Scholarship for Excellence

Closing Remarks

Karina Lehan, Senior Director of Programs



2026 Scholarship Awards

Feffi Stiassni Scholarship for Excellence

The Feffi Stiassni Scholarship was established by the Stiassni Family in memory of their sister Feffi, a passionate, creative dancer who passed away young.

The scholarship honors students who demonstrate excellence in academics, the arts, community service, or sports.

George Washington Carver Scholarship

The George Washington Carver Scholarship represents donations from a wide range of people interested in supporting the future of Port Chester students who have participated in Carver Center programs. This year, the George Washington Carver fund includes a new donation from NY Presbyterian Hospital, aimed at supporting students pursuing careers in the medical field, of which we have many here at Carver. Recipients of this award are resilient, have persevered despite challenges and demonstrate a commitment to their families and community while aspiring to achieve. We know they have much to offer our world.

June & Ho Park Scholarship

The June and Ho Park Scholarship honors June and Ho Park, immigrants who built a successful business including the beloved Rye food store June & Ho. The scholarship was established by their daughter Heather and son-in-law David Burgess.

The scholarship supports Port Chester youth, especially first-generation college students.

Larchmont/Mamroneck & Port Chester/Rye

Brook Lions Scholarship

The Larchmont/Mamaroneck & Port Chester/Rye Brook Lions Club Scholarship is dedicated to empowering local youth and investing in the next generation of community leaders through a commitment to service and excellence.

SoundWaves Musicianship Award

Inspired by their students, SoundWaves created this award to honor the Carver youth who best embodies their spirit of enthusiasm, creativity, and hard work in developing as a musician.

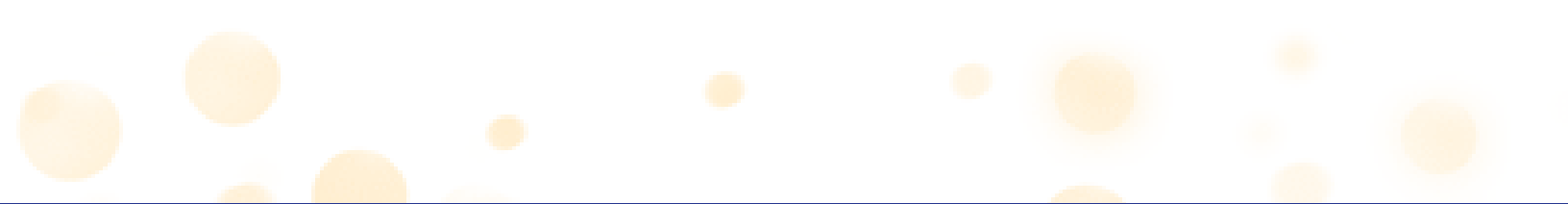


Anne Bradner

Chief Executive Officer

Our scholarship program reflects a shared commitment to investing in the potential of young people and helping remove barriers to opportunity. Thanks to the generosity of our partners, we are able to empower students as they pursue higher education, achieve their goals, and build futures for themselves and their communities. Together, we are not only supporting academic success, but helping shape the next generation of leaders.

To our scholarship recipients: this recognition is a reflection of your hard work, perseverance, and the promise you carry for the future. We are proud to support you as you continue your journey and pursue your goals with courage and determination. We hope this scholarship serves as both a resource and a reminder that your community believes in your potential and is cheering you on every step of the way.

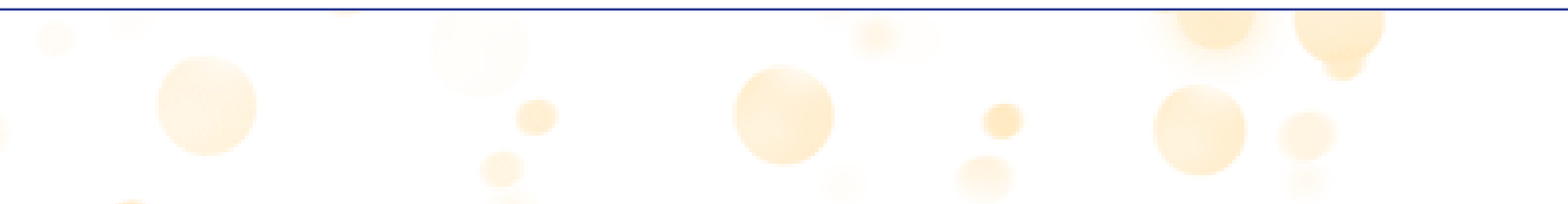


Thank You

A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Funders

This event would simply not be possible without the generous support of those who believe in the power of community. To our funders, your investment goes far beyond dollars and cents. It is an investment in the people, connections, and spirit that make this community so special.

Because of your generosity, we are able to gather, celebrate, and strengthen the bonds that hold us together. With deep gratitude and appreciation, thank you for making this possible.



Feffi Stiassni Scholarship for Excellence Recipients



Awarded \$5,000

David Barrera

Fordham University

David is finishing his freshman year at Fordham University, where he is studying Finance. He was a previous Carver Scholarship Recipient in 2025. He continues to impress us with the diligence he applies to “honoring the responsibility of completing his degree.” As a commuter who works to fund the substantial tuition of his school, he feels the demands on his time in a competitive major where there is a lot of pressure to get ahead. He has enjoyed talking to older students for their advice, especially regarding internships and potential job paths.

Freddy Palacios

SUNY Stony Brook

Starting at PCHS in 10th grade, Freddy achieved enormous academic success very quickly, despite the language barrier and a substantial work schedule.

He also strove for excellence in art, dedicating countless hours to progressing his skills and ultimately being honored for creating an 85th Anniversary banner for the NAACP, in collaboration with Carver. He will attend SUNY Stony Brook with a planned major in Mechanical Engineering.



Awarded \$5,000

George Washington Carver Scholarship Teen Center Recipients



Melani Calderon

SUNY WCC

Melani wisely said in her application that “obstacles have made her goals more clear” and we are very impressed, not only with her clear focus and the intelligent way that she communicates, but with her resolve to be her own source of strength. She will be attending SUNY WCC in the fall with a plan to study Nursing.

Awarded \$2,000

Allison Delgado

Manhattanville University

We commend Allison for graduating high school with over 800 hours of BOCES-trained trade work in cosmetology already completed. She will attend Manhattanville University in the fall to study Social Work with a focus on Child Development.



Awarded \$500

George Washington Carver Scholarship Teen Center Recipients



Odalys Fajardo

College of Westchester

Odalys is leaving high school with impressive levels of poise and confidence. Her kindness, optimism and energy to work for others are truly impressive. She will attend the College of Westchester with a career goal to work in Human Services.

Awarded \$500

Robson Garcia

SUNY WCC

Robson impressed us greatly with his profound levels of perseverance, responsibility and leadership since a very young age. His work ethic and unwavering ability to provide for his family while pursuing his own education are remarkable. He will attend SUNY WCC to pursue a degree in Nursing and we have no doubt that he will make his grandmother very proud.



Awarded \$3,000

George Washington Carver Scholarship Teen Center Recipients



Gabriela Garcia

SUNY WCC

Gabriela is known to many as one of the welcoming faces at Carver's reception desk. Less known is that she also has a two-year BOCES certification in Culinary Arts! She will attend SUNY WCC in the fall with a goal of exploring careers in hospitality and medicine.

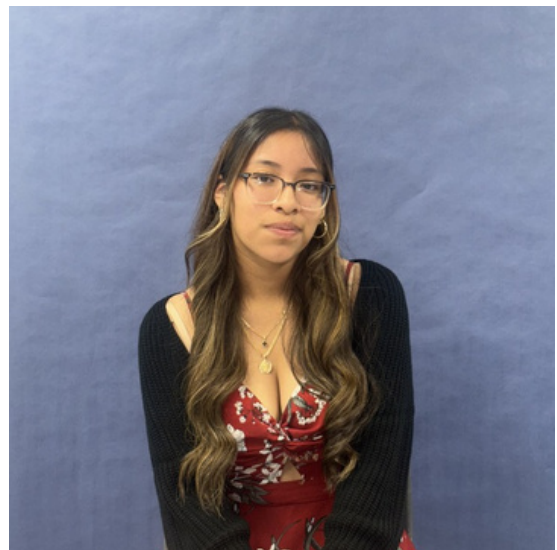
Awarded \$500

Nami Perez

SUNY WCC

Nami is leaving high school with impressive maturity, gratitude, and a strong sense of purpose shaped by her experiences working alongside her mother and her commitment to community service. Her essay reflects a deep understanding of sacrifice, priorities, and the value of hard work.

She will attend SUNY Westchester Community College with a career goal of becoming a nurse.



Awarded \$500

George Washington Carver Scholarship Teen Center Recipients



Danna Poroj

St. Bonaventura University

Danna is a perfect example of what resilience looks like in a high school graduate. Her entry into St. Bonaventura University's HEOP Program in the fall represents countless victories and we agree that college will offer her the opportunity she has earned to achieve all that she is capable of.

Awarded \$2,000

Neicer Ullaguari

SUNY WCC

Neicer demonstrates strong determination, responsibility, and a commitment to serving others. Since arriving in the United States, he has balanced community service at Don Bosco and Carver with a job. He will attend SUNY Westchester Community College with a goal of becoming a nurse, driven by a desire to understand illness and make his grandmother proud.



Awarded \$500

George Washington Carver Scholarship Teen Center Recipients



Awarded \$500

Jeffrey Vallejo

SUNY WCC

Jeffrey has shown impressive growth in confidence, communication, and responsibility through his involvement with Carver YEP at Oodle Monkey Art Studio and his role as a camp counselor at Carver Camp. Over the past summer, he especially stood out for opening up and strengthening his language skills while working with younger students. He will attend SUNY Westchester Community College with a career goal of becoming an electrician.

Jake Vasquez *Iona University*

As a four-sport athlete with a significant injury, Jake turned a “setback into a comeback” and harnessed the determination needed to recover and improve. Already a role model to his younger siblings, like many of our recipients, he has also focused on becoming an accessible role model and leader at school. He will attend Iona University in the fall with the goal of a career in the medical field.



Awarded \$2,500

George Washington Carver Scholarship Teen Center Recipients



Daysi Zhagui

SUNY WCC

Daysi is an exemplary Teen Center member, consistently ready and willing to help, participate, volunteer, and support her peers. She has distinguished herself through her positive presence and commitment to her community. She will attend SUNY Westchester Community College to study Nursing.

Awarded \$500

George Washington Carver Scholarship Alumni Recipients



Awarded \$500

Taryn DeCrescenzo

SUNY Geneseo

Taryn is finishing her freshman year at SUNY New Paltz, where she planned to study Mathematics. She was a previous Carver Scholarship Recipient in 2025. During her freshman year, she developed an interest in actuarial science but found few opportunities to explore it. After researching, she will transfer to SUNY Geneseo in the fall, where they offer a strong program and many student clubs in her area of professional interest.

Cristian Garcia *Brown University*

Cristian is finishing his freshman year at Brown University, where he is studying Computer Science. He was a previous Carver Scholarship Recipient in 2025 and he was also the impact speaker at the 2026 Carver Gala. He has greatly enjoyed being part of a first-gen college student program and other identity groups this year and next year he looks forward to living in Hispanic housing on campus.



Awarded \$500

George Washington Carver Scholarship Alumni Recipients



Awarded \$500

Ainara Gomez

SUNY Stony Brook

Ainara is finishing her freshman year at SUNY Stony Brook, where she is studying pre-nursing. She was a previous Carver Scholarship Recipient in 2025. Her goals include a paid job as a chemistry TA this summer, a job in the campus EOP office, and then completing her undergraduate degree to work for a year before returning to school to become a Nurse Practitioner.

Ashley Gutierrez

Skidmore College

Ashley is finishing her sophomore year at Skidmore College, where she is studying Biochemistry on a pre-med track, with a minor in Music. We were impressed to see how much she has expanded her interests and goals during the first half of her college experience. She is making plans to study abroad in Belgium, create a soil microbiology research project and complete a summer school course in chemistry.



Awarded \$500

George Washington Carver Scholarship Alumni Recipients



Awarded \$500

Chenoa Marquez

CUNY Baruch College

Chenoa is finishing her freshman year at CUNY Baruch, where she will major in Marketing Management and Marketing Analytics. She was a previous Carver Scholarship Recipient in 2025. She has made great progress in organizing her schedule this year to make time for academics, commuting, social activities, and personal fitness. Next year she plans to join the swim team.

Kayley Martinez

Syracuse University

Kayley is finishing her sophomore year at Syracuse University, where she is pursuing three majors in Political Science, Political Philosophy, and Law, Society & Policy. She was a previous Carver Scholarship Recipient in 2024 and 2025. She supplements her school funding for tuition with an on-campus job that covers many of her expenses. She enjoys being a Resident Advisor and on the E-Boards of other student organizations.



Awarded \$500

June & Ho Park Scholarship

Teen Center Recipients



Christopher Arizmendi

Iona University

Christopher's experiences throughout his life have given him a great amount of emotional maturity, empathy and determination, which he has converted into leadership, particularly in marching band, where he works to develop the skills and confidence of others. He will attend Iona University with the goal of a career in the medical field.

Awarded \$1,000

Andrea Barajas

Union College

Andrea carries with her from high school many profound perspectives about how community becomes like family, how to set a goal and achieve it through hard work and ingenuity, and how to truly measure the value of an experience. She will be attending Union College in the fall as part of the HEOP Program, with plans to major in Mechanical Engineering.



Awarded \$1,500

June & Ho Park Scholarship

Teen Center Recipients



Awarded \$4,000

Imelda Barrientos

Manhattanville University

Imeda possesses a level of perseverance, resilience, maturity and responsibility that is truly exceptional for a high school senior. It is an honor to support her on her next educational chapter, which she describes in this way: "I want to go to college not only for myself but for my sister, and for every young immigrant who feels lost or invisible in a world that moves too fast to notice them. Education is my way of reclaiming control—of building a future founded not on fear, but on hope." She will be attending Manhattanville University with a planned degree in Psychology.

Juan Gamboa

SUNY WCC

In only three years, Juan has used the work ethic, academic passion and leadership skills that he had already developed in his home country to complete a very successful high school career in Port Chester. We have no doubt that he will launch a degree in Legal Studies at SUNY WCC and transform that into a career as a social, political or professional leader.



Awarded \$1,000

June & Ho Park Scholarship

Teen Center Recipients



Awarded \$5,000

Natalia Guzman

Manhattanville University

Natalia impressed us with her high achievement in academics and athletics, which she earned through discipline, determination and hard work. A four-year, two-sport Varsity athlete in track and swimming, she harnessed fitness as a vehicle for self-discovery as she expanded her comfort zone into new areas of experience, performance and leadership. She will be attending Manhattanville University in the fall with plans for a career in the medical field.

Awarded \$2,000

Nahika Jean Charles

University of Connecticut

Nahika greatly impressed us with her level of determination, responsibility and maturity. She understands how to take initiative with intelligence and hope. As she so eloquently put it, "Choosing college reflects my commitment to growth, resilience, and turning my experiences into purpose while building a future centered on learning and compassion." She will be attending the University of Connecticut with a planned degree in Neuroscience.

June & Ho Park Scholarship

Teen Center Recipients



Awarded \$3,000

Ovidio Lazo

CUNY Lehman College

With incredible presence and emotional maturity, Ovidio balances a deep strength with a deep gratitude, both built from his dedication to understanding the ways that his family shared substantial health challenges in order to overcome them. He will be attending CUNY Lehman in the fall, planning to major in Biology on a pre-med track, with the goal of becoming a general surgeon, so that he can help others through medicine in the way that he was helped.

Kathy Leon

SUNY Purchase College

Kathy impressed us with her adaptability and resilience as she recounted her story, leaving a wonderful life in her home country and working to build another wonderful life in Port Chester. She has earned a Seal of Biliteracy and academic honors and presents herself with clarity and confidence. Motivated by her own journey of discovery about adversity and self-reliance, she plans to major in Psychology at SUNY Purchase.



Awarded \$3,000

June & Ho Park Scholarship

Teen Center Recipients



Awarded \$2,000

Caitlin Lopez

Wright State University

With a bright smile and high energy, Caitlin has stayed busy across academics and extra-curricular activities ranging from track and cheerleading to community service, in addition to a job. Her application essay demonstrated the impressive range of skills, perspectives and confidences that can be developed as a successful employee. With a career goal to be a pilot, she will attend Wright State University in Connecticut in the fall.

Santiago Marquez

SUNY Stony Brook

A four-sport athlete with a strong academic record and many extra-curricular interests, Santiago used sports not only to develop his own sense of self-discipline, but also as a pathway to creating new friendships and communities, despite an initial language barrier. He will attend SUNY Stony Brook in the fall, planning to explore different majors around his interests of computer science, design and photography/cinematography.



Awarded \$2,000

June & Ho Park Scholarship Teen Center Recipients



Awarded \$4,000

Teresa Vincent

Rensselaer Polytechnic

Teresa is an intelligent, beautiful writer who offered thoughtful, mature and well-articulated observations in her application essay about her journey as a student and a person who must create a balanced view of achievement. With high academic honors and a wide range of extra-curricular interests including engineering, music and environmentalism, she is headed to Rensselaer Polytechnic, with plans to major in aerospace engineering.

June & Ho Park Scholarship

Alumni Recipients



Awarded \$3,000

Angel Farias

St. Johns University

Angel is finishing his sophomore year at St. John's University, where he is pursuing a major in Legal Studies and a minor in the Philosophy of Law. Angel was a two-time previous Carver Scholarship Recipient in 2024 and 2025. Angel balances his school work with an hour-long commute and a substantial work week outside of school. He continues to thrive in college by seeking friends with similar goals in interest- and career-related clubs. This summer he will complete an internship shadowing judges in the Supreme Court in NYC.

Maria Garcia

Manhattanville University

Maria is finishing her sophomore year at Manhattanville University, where she commutes and is studying Nursing. She was a previous Carver Scholarship Recipient in 2024 and 2025. She will take a summer course at SUNY Westchester Community College so that she can start her clinicals in the fall, where she will get hands-on experience and start to hone in on her desired nursing specialization.



Awarded \$1,000

June & Ho Park Scholarship

Alumni Recipients



Awarded \$2,000

Christopher Gonzalez

North Carolina State University

Christopher is finishing his sophomore year at Wake Tech Community College in North Carolina, where he is completing a double associates degree in Engineering and Science. A previous Carver Scholarship Recipient in 2024 and 2025, he was recently accepted into his first choice four-year program at NC State, where he will start as a junior next fall. He has impressed us with his ability to stay focused on his goals and priorities with patience, as college paths don't always unfold exactly as planned.

Chantal Marquez

SUNY Buffalo University

Chantal is finishing her sophomore year at SUNY Buffalo, where she is studying Computer Science. She was a previous Carver Scholarship Recipient in 2024 and 2025. She will move back to campus early at the end of the summer to complete training for roles next year as a Resident Advisor in her dorm and as a paid Teaching Assistant and tutor in Engineering, roles that she learned about through peers in student clubs such as the Society of Hispanic Engineers.



Awarded \$1,000

June & Ho Park Scholarship

Alumni Recipients



Awarded \$4,000

Marliz Meza

Mercy University

Marliz is finishing her freshman year at Mercy University, where she studies to become a NICU Nurse, in addition to working part-time now as a Nurse Tech at White Plains Hospital. She was a previous Carver Scholarship Recipient in 2025. Marliz continues to impress us with her high academic achievement in Honors classes, while maintaining a robust work schedule as a commuter and also caring for her sister. She has an almost endless capacity to manage many responsibilities and also find joy and connection in her different communities.

Melany Monroy

SUNY Stony Brook

Melany is finishing her sophomore and part of junior year at Sacred Heart University, where she is enrolled in a 3+3 Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program. She was a previous Carver Scholarship Recipient in 2024 and 2025. She is loving her major and career path and finds a lot of motivation through campus friendships, practicums with classmates, and one-on-one interactions with professors. Her positive surprise in college is learning that she can do more than she imagined she could, with the right opportunities.



Awarded \$3,000

June & Ho Park Scholarship

Alumni Recipients



Awarded \$2,000

Tony Nievecela

SUNY New Paltz

Tony is finishing his freshman year at SUNY New Paltz, where he is studying Finance and Accounting in the honors program. He was a previous Carver Scholarship Recipient in 2025. He has done an excellent job of aggregating diverse financial aid sources for college, and he keeps an itemized budget to manage expenses. He suggests taking advantage of orientation events to meet people and learn about resources for advice and engagement.

Samantha Peña

SUNY Binghamton University

Samantha is finishing her freshman year at SUNY Binghamton where she is studying Nursing. She was a previous Carver Scholarship Recipient in 2025. She impressed us with the perspective and empathy that she brought to college as a first generation student, even if she was aware of how much was unfamiliar.

She learned quickly that professors really do want to know and help students, and she has bonded a lot with like-minded friends through clubs.



Awarded \$1,000

June & Ho Park Scholarship

Alumni Recipients



Awarded \$5,000

Astrid Rodrigues

Mercy University

Astrid is finishing her sophomore year at Mercy University, in a 4+1 year BA/MBA program with a concentration in General Business, followed by a Masters in Management. She is a two-time previous Carver Scholarship Recipient in 2024 and 2025. Commuting from home into the NYC campus, she has solved the challenge of building community through several leadership roles on-campus, particularly as a peer teacher and mentor for incoming freshman. These roles formed a motivating support network for her when she began college, and she enjoys providing that support for others.

Larchmont/Mamroneck & Port Chester/ Rye Brook Lions Scholarship



Awarded \$500

Aitana Gomez

New York University

A strong finalist in our program this year to be recognized with this award, Aitana has also channeled her experience into leadership. Working with young recent immigrants in summer camps and as peers in Port Chester High School, she has set a goal to seek out untapped spirit and “see” it, the way she wanted to be seen as she transitioned into a new culture. She will also be attending NYU in the fall as part of the HEOP program, with most of her tuition and expenses covered.

Leonardo Jimenez

Colgate University

Leo is another outstanding participant in our program this year, who will be attending Colgate University in the fall with a full tuition package. We have no doubt that his expansive academic interests and cultural observations will serve him well in the future, as will the self-discipline and leadership that he has developed as a sports captain and student.



Awarded \$500

Larchmont/Mamroneck & Port Chester/ Rye Brook Lions Scholarship



Awarded \$500

Sofia Rangel

New York University

An outstanding candidate in our scholarship program this year, Sofia will be attending New York University in the fall, with most of her tuition and expenses covered. However, we are happy to recognize her significant achievements in academics and other extra-curricular areas, including an internship in Ghana and an early entrepreneurial career as a young baker.

SoundWaves Musicianship Award

Awarded \$500

Jacob Gordillo

Stanford University

In addition to playing trombone in the PCHS Marching Band, Jacob was one of the original SoundWaves program participants, starting guitar lessons in 2021. A highly accomplished student, he will be attending Stanford University in the fall, with a plan to study Mechanical Engineering and Mathematics.

Awarded \$500

Jazlyn Flores

CUNY John Jay College

Jazlyn has participated in choir, Saints Brigade and the Port Chester High School Marching Band, which she credits with teaching her the power of collective performance and the transformational experience of being part of something bigger than yourself. She will attend CUNY John Jay with a planned major in Criminal Justice.

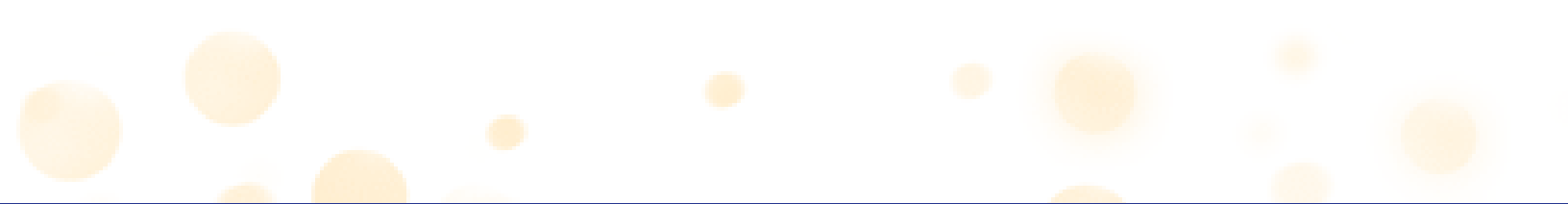


Awarded \$500

Diego Vega

Syracuse University

In addition to singing and directing in school groups and for Port Chester Sound, Diego started in 2023 taking piano lessons with SoundWaves. In 2024, he became a SoundWaves student teacher for piano while continuing his own instruction. He will be attending Syracuse University in the fall, with a planned major in Film under the Bachelor of Fine Arts program.



Thank You

A heartfelt thank you to our scholarship committee members for their time, thoughtfulness, and dedication in supporting our students. Your generosity of spirit makes a lasting difference.

Scholarship Committee Members

Laura Iverson
Felipe Orozco
Gabby McCree
Alisa Holland
Jill Maitland
Daniel Sarmiento
Nancy Naulaguari

