



**Foothill-De Anza Retirees Association (FODARA) Scholarship
June 2025 Recipients – 4 @ \$1,250 (2 at each campus)**

Daniel (Foothill)

Major: Engineering

Thank you:

Dear Cherished Donors,



I want to sincerely thank you for awarding me the FODARA Scholarship. Your generosity and support mean the world to me, not only because they ease the financial burden of college, but because they remind me that my hard work and goals are seen and supported by those who came before me. I was born in Salem, Oregon, but spent most of my life in Singapore. At 17, I made the decision to move to the Bay Area on my own to pursue higher education at Foothill College. The transition wasn't easy, as I had to adjust to a new culture, support myself through part-time jobs, and navigate college on my own. However, it taught me independence, resilience, and how to keep striving no matter the circumstances.

While at Foothill, I immersed myself in both academics and community. I pursued engineering internships, maintained strong grades, and served as the Secretary of the Foothill Engineering Club, where I helped lead hands-on aerospace projects and foster a collaborative environment for my peers.

This fall, I'll be transferring to UC Berkeley to complete my Bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering. My long-term goal is to work at the intersection of manufacturing and AI-based automation engineering, eventually launching a startup focused on intelligent quality control systems in medical device production. More than anything, I hope to pay forward the support I've received, just as you have, with mentorship, opportunity, and meaningful impact.

Thank you again for your generosity. Your support doesn't just help financially, it also motivates me to keep growing, keep giving, and keep building a future I can be proud of.

With gratitude,
Daniel

Douglas (Foothill)

Major: Psychology

My Story:

I'm Douglas Adams III, originally born in San Francisco, CA. Growing up was hard for me, as I grew up around a lot of violence, and to get me out of that environment me and my mother moved around a lot. We lived in San,

Francisco, Richmond, and Oakland before finally settling down in San Mateo, where we've been living for the past 11 years. Once in San Mateo, I attended Park school, and Borel Middle School, where I earned my middle school certificate, before going to Menlo-Atherton High School.

I chose to attend Menlo-Atherton High School because I wanted to go to a school that would challenge me both academically and athletically, which are two things I felt the San Mateo Unified School District was lacking for me. To get to school everyday I took the CalTrain there and back when we didn't have practice, and when we did my mom would pick me up from school after she got off of work. This went on for about two years, as my third year in high school we encountered the COVID pandemic. Which hurt both me and my mom because she works for a school bus company, this caused a large halt in everything we had going on and forced us to adjust. It took a while but I was able to find work again while going to school and playing football working at various retail stores when I could like Macy's or Target, so I would be able to provide for myself and help my mom whenever necessary. As at this time I now had my license and my own car, so I worked to be able to have gas to get to school and back every day, and to make sure I'm taken care of.

After graduating from Menlo-Atherton with high recognition, I came here to Foothill and have been doing what I can to be a better man ever since. I play football here, and I'm also a former Umoja student, who graduated from the program in 2023. Since being here, I've been working security jobs to make sure I can help my mom with rent every month and I could be taken care of while paying my other bills. This went smooth my first year, but my second year at Foothill, I tore my labrum during practice which required me to get surgery, and as a result my job let me go with no notice, and once I was healthy, it took me like 3-4 months to find a new security job at Stanford Hospital. I worked there while taking my classes to receive my AA in communications which I now have, for a year until September of 2024 until we lost our contract leaving me looking for work again for weeks, until I was able to finally find a new security job in which I now work, but I know me and my mom still need extra support. But I can definitely say college has been no walk in the park. While I have had the support of my mom, we've been learning together how the college process works as I'm a first generation college student, as well as college graduate.

I'm now working towards my degree in psychology, taking classes here, as I want to have a future in psychology and see where it can take me. From here, I want to transfer to a 4-year on an athletic scholarship and earn my degree for as close to free as possible. After that, if I have the opportunity to keep playing football I'll take it, but if not I plan to either get heavily into psychology and the jobs that I could find in that field, even involving sports, or get into real estate. I think the scholarship money will help my families situation as our rents getting increased by another 300 dollars this month, and I think if I spent less money on school things like gas for the commute, money for classes or books, or even school supplies, I would be able to help more and help get us out of the situation we are in, as we are barely struggling to get it done now. I want to be able to get the free education because I know my family doesn't have it to pay out of pocket,, and I refuse to put me or my mom in any unnecessary debt, but I owe it to her to get my degree, as well as I owe it to myself. My mom has done whatever she has had to do to put me in the best position possible, even upending her own life, something I'll always appreciate, and I want to do the same.

Hayden (De Anza)

Major: Auto Tech/Mechanical Engineering

Thank you:

To the donors at Foothill-De Anza Retirement Association,



I really don't know how to express my gratitude as this really means a lot to me. The money from the De Anza Foothill-De Anza Retirees Association Scholarship is undoubtedly substantial, but I think the fact I was chosen means just as much to me. I am not sure how many people applied for this scholarship but knowing that I was one of the people selected means the world to me. Currently in addition to attending classes at De Anza, I work at Audi San Jose as a porter and I have started a few of my own personal businesses. I plan to go into mechanical engineering after I have earned my associate's degree in automotive Engine Performance at De Anza and this scholarship money will help me pay for the classes I need to take in the future. I am working on all the general education requirements starting this summer quarter and very happy that I now have some money to help pay for those classes now and later in the fall and winter as well. I cannot convey how grateful I am to be

receiving this scholarship as this means so much to me that I was selected to receive this. I intend to maximize this amazing opportunity I was given. I will do my best to take advantage of this scholarship to help get me closer to my academic goals and to eventually land a job later on.

Peter (De Anza)**Major: Engineering****Thank you:**

Dear Foothill-De Anza Retirement Association Donors,

I am writing to thank you for your generous support. I am grateful to be selected as a recipient of this award. I am currently a second-year student at De Anza College, majoring in Electrical Engineering. I love building, fixing, and improving electronic tools and devices. Outside of class, I am involved in the AreaSpaCS club, in which I am working on the electronics for our 3D printed drone. I have an internship this summer, which will help me develop my skills and education.

Receiving this scholarship means a great deal to me. My health issues have kept me from working, and this aid will help me cover the financial strain of school, allowing me to focus more on my studies and less on financial issues. Your generosity is helping me reach my academic and career goals.

In the future, I am working hard to get into Stanford to pursue a degree in Electrical Engineering. I have a few ideas for startups that will require a deep understanding of electronics. I hope to use my education to develop efficient and durable electronics, reducing waste and pollution from our current disposable designs. Thank you again for your support and for investing in students like me. Your contribution is making a difference in my life.

Warm regards,

Peter