MISSION

- The Don Diego Scholarship Foundation promotes education in a fair and fiscally sound manner by providing scholarships to deserving San Diego County graduating high school seniors and graduates who have been associated with activities at the Del Mar Fairgrounds, including the San Diego County Fair. The Don Diego Scholarship Foundation also provides grants for agricultural education.

ABOUT

- The Foundation has awarded $1,276,844 in college scholarships to 362 students and in agriculture education grants.
- The Foundation was established in 1986 as a lasting tribute to Tom Hernandez, who played the role of the Fair’s legendary welcoming host from 1947 until his death in 1984.
- 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization; EIN 33-0859020.

SCHOLARSHIPS

- The Foundation annually offers approximately $72,500 in college scholarships to outstanding students in the San Diego area.
- Scholarships are offered in six categories: Zable Foundation 4-H, FFA, Employee, Exhibitor/Participant, Junior Livestock Auction, and Vocational Education.
- A $5,000 Spanjian Family Scholarship is awarded to an exceptional recipient.
- Two renewable four-year scholarships, the CGW Family Scholarship and the Liss Family Scholarship, have also been awarded; each totaling $20,000 over the four-year period.

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Foundation welcomes donations of any amount as well as support for programs listed below.

- An exclusive Dinner and Concert Gala is held on an evening during the San Diego County Fair.
- A Legacy Brick program offers people to commemorate a special occasion or person by customizing a brick permanently enshrined at the Del Mar Fairgrounds.
- A Plant*Grow*Eat bus transportation program enables elementary students from Title 1 schools to learn about agriculture and nutrition from the ground up.
- An Endowed Named Scholarship invites individuals, families and organizations to create a named scholarship by investing a minimum $10,000 to provide an enduring annual scholarship.

LEADERSHIP

- Executive Committee: Stephen Shewmaker, Chair; Glenn Drown, Vice Chair; Alysha Stehly, Treasurer; D Prestininzi, Secretary
- Board: Lisa Barkett, Alyson Connolly, Sandra DiCicco, Jim Edwards, Susan Farrior, Joe Harper, Kirby Morrison, Frederick Schenk
  Chairs Emeritus: Paul Ecke III, Roxana Foxx, Jon Liss
- Executive Director: Ashley Colburn McCaughan