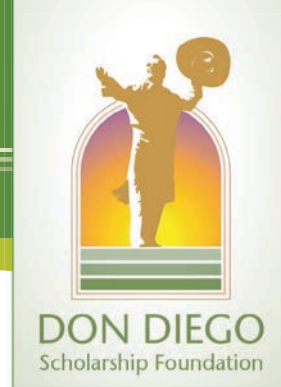


# Don Diego Scholarship Foundation



## Fact Sheet

*Transforming today's outstanding students into tomorrow's leaders.*

**A Scholarship Program of  
the San Diego County Fair  
and Del Mar Fairgrounds**

- MISSION** The Don Diego Scholarship Foundation provides scholarships to deserving San Diego youth who are associated with activities at the Del Mar Fairgrounds, including the San Diego County Fair, and are pursuing their educational interests. The Don Diego Scholarship Foundation also provides grants for agricultural education.
- ESTABLISHED** 1986.
- STRUCTURE** 501 (c)3 nonprofit organization.
- HISTORY** The Foundation was formed 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. To date, the Foundation has awarded approximately \$797,000 in scholarships to 177 students and in agriculture education grants.
- SCHOLARSHIPS** Currently, the Foundation annually awards \$44,000 in college scholarships to 14 recipients. The Foundation annually awards one \$5,000, one \$2,500 and one \$1,000 college scholarship to students in each of four categories: 1) 4-H member; 2) FFA member; 3) Employee at the Fair, Racetrack or Fairgrounds; and 4) Exhibitor/ Participant at the Fair. The most outstanding of the four \$5,000 recipients receives a \$5,000 Spanjian Family Scholarship, for a total award of \$10,000. The Foundation also annually awards two \$2,500 Vocational Education scholarships to two students pursuing a vocational curriculum at a community college or trade school.
- PROCESS** The application cycle begins in January. The application deadline is mid-March. After a rigorous review, the top candidates in each category are interviewed by an application panel in April. Winners are announced in spring and typically enter college the ensuing fall.
- FUNDRAISING** Don Diego raises money via several programs. In addition, it welcomes donations at any level at any time.
- ANNUAL GALA** An exclusive Dinner and Concert Gala is held on an evening during the San Diego County Fair.
- AMIGO CLUB** An Amigo Club membership offers a \$500 retail value of year-round Fairgrounds fun for just \$99. "Dos Amigos" – two memberships – are just \$150.
- LEGACY BRICKS** A unique Legacy Brick Program enables people to commemorate a special occasion or person by purchasing a customized brick permanently enshrined at the Legacy Fountain in the Del Mar Fairgrounds' Plaza de Mexico.
- BUS PROGRAM** "Plant\*Grow\*Eat" bus transportation grants enable students from low-income areas to learn about farming and nutrition, and to enjoy a day at the Fair where they display the vegetables they have grown for judging.
- BOARD** Jon Liss, Chair; Timothy J. Fennell, President/CEO; Steve Shewmaker, Vice Chair; Roxana Foxx, Treasurer; Paul Ecke III, Chair Emeritus. Members: Lisa Barkett, Leslie Barone, Kelly Burt, Susan Farrior, Jack Ford, Joe Harper, Lee Haydu, Juanita Hayes, George Karetas, Kathlyn Mead, Russ Penniman, Allan Royster, Frederick Schenk, Pierre Sleiman, Alysha Stehly, Karen Tanz, Bob L. Vice.

Executive Director: Chana Mannen.