



# SHSEF

SEQUOIA HIGH SCHOOL  
EDUCATION FOUNDATION



## 2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT

# LETTER FROM OUR CO-PRESIDENTS

Dear SHSEF Supporter,

Resilience. Community. Gratitude. Hope.

These are what come to mind when we think of the past year. Don't get us wrong, it was also chaotic and unprecedented, but when we think of SHSEF donors and the impact you have made on our school community, we are filled with immense gratitude.

Because of you, Sequoia was able to pivot to distance learning and support families in crisis. SHSEF donors ensured students who needed it received a loaned Chromebook and internet access; families addressed housing and medical needs through emergency grants; and teachers received training and technology support to provide online instruction.

However, there were many other ways SHSEF donors made a difference this year. In the AVID Program, 100% of seniors were accepted to a college this fall. PTSA Mini-Grants supported 36 campus projects, including the Sequoia Robotics Team and World Studies. Additional instruction and support allowed students to attend higher level IB math, a JAVA class, and six core classes.

**You made our 2019-20 goal with over 814 gifts totaling over \$848,000!**

Before and after shelter-in-place and distance learning, SHSEF donors supported students and families, enhanced curriculum and instruction, and increased access to learning opportunities and resources.

You also made our 2019-20 goal with over 814 gifts totaling over \$848K! These funds will continue to support critical Sequoia programs and instruction in 2020-21, including a full-time college counselor, reduced class sizes and projects and materials that help Sequoia staff to respond to new needs as they arise.

Please read on to learn more of how you made a difference. And thank you.

Sincerely,

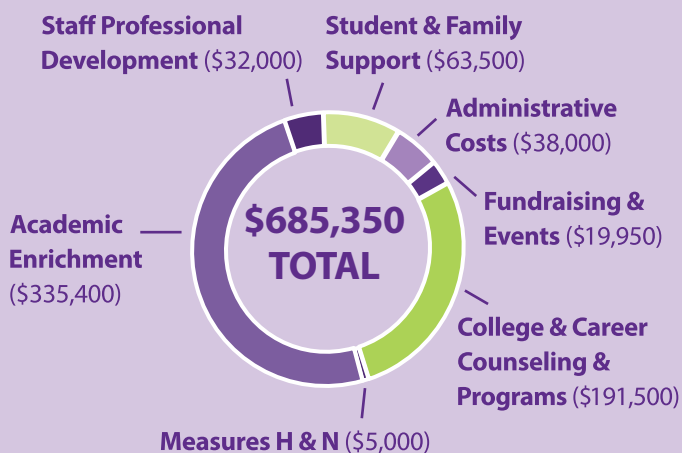


Marianne Jett  
Co-President



Tessa Solomon  
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## YOUR 2018-19 DONATIONS FUNDED 2019-2020 PROGRAMS



Visit our website for the detailed list of programs.

## WHAT ABOUT 2020-2021?

**“Continuing to support small class sizes, college/career counseling, and access to technology is an advantage the SHSEF gives Sequoia students. With the additional funds raised last year, enrichment activities, anti-racist education resources, mental health supports will help make this year one of empowerment and transformation for our students and families.”**

*-Sean Priest  
Sequoia HS Principal*



## COLLEGE-BOUND! THE AVID FAMILY

SHSEF supports the Advancing Via Individual Determination, (AVID) Program at Sequoia, which focuses on closing the opportunity gap among at-risk students. For the past 13 years, AVID has shepherded hundreds of students to academic success. This year, all 46 AVID seniors were accepted to a four year college, including UC Berkeley, UC San Diego, Grambling State University, to name a few!

The foundation for success starts with the SHSEF sponsored "College Day," when all freshmen visit a college campus. SHSEF also supports program operations, so that the AVID teachers can focus on students rather than on fundraising.

**"AVID has given me confidence to prove not only to myself but to the people around me that I can achieve everything I set my mind to."**

*- Maria Chavez, Class of 2020*

*Attending UC Merced in Fall '20*



46

AVID Class of '20  
Seniors

98%

AVID students  
enroll in at least  
one IB Course

8

AVID seniors  
completed the  
IB Diploma

100%

AVID graduates are  
attending college in  
the fall

## THERE IN TIMES OF NEED: FAMILY SUPPORT



SHSEF funds The Family Support Program, which provides emergency support for Sequoia students and their families in crisis. As a result of COVID-19 and its financial impact, this program is even more critical.

- A parent suffered an accident and was not able to work for several months. Family Support grants helped them with rent, food and other basic needs.
- The Adopt-a-Family program provided essential items—including 12 new bikes—to families in need during the holiday season.
- The Mask Challenge program (left) provided 1,000+ masks to students and their families.

## SPOTLIGHT ON RAVEN REPORT



SHSEF's funding for the **Raven Report** allows student journalists to engage in project-based learning with the product landing in the hands of the student body.

This year, on the verge of closing for the semester, the journalism team finished the March issue and distributed it during the shelter-in-place. The students continued to publish online at [ravenreport.org](http://ravenreport.org) where they embedded the digital version of the newsmagazine completed remotely in May.

The National Scholastic Press Association acknowledged our Editors-in-Chief, **Taylor Gayner** and **Jay Tipirneni**, on their Honor Roll of Student Journalists.

## REDUCED CLASS SIZE AND HIGHER MATH

SHSEF allocated \$183K to fund eight class sections to enable smaller freshmen core class sizes, a piano elective class, JAVA and higher-level IB math. Additionally, \$16K funded after school math tutoring.

"Because of SHSEF, I was able to tutor students after school multiple days a week. This extra support was a key component in students' success with these classes and exams."

- Josh Yezerski  
IB Math Teacher



Freshmen English



Piano



Freshmen Biology  
(2 sections)



JAVA Programming



Freshmen World  
Studies



Algebra  
IB Math- HL  
Afterschool Math Tutoring



## WHAT DO ROBOTS HAVE IN COMMON WITH SOCIAL JUSTICE LESSONS?

As a partner organization, SHSEF is proud to support PTSA with an annual grant to support **MINI-GRANTS** of up to \$750 for students and faculty projects that spark creativity and innovation.

### Robotics Team Tournaments

“As the Treasurer for Sequoia’s two First Tech Challenge Robotics teams, I asked for a mini-grant for tournament fees. This allowed each team to participate in two tournaments and the senior team to participate in the NorCal regional tournament.”

-Blaise Baker, Class of 2020

Robotics Team Treasurer



36

SHSEF-funded  
Mini-Grants

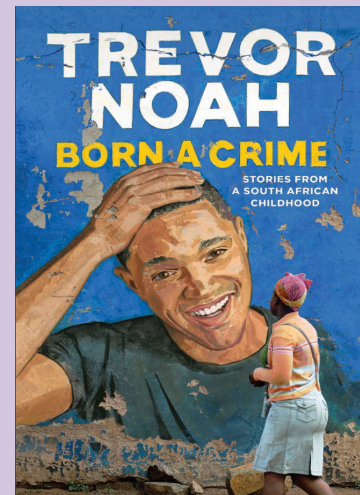
\$15,029

Allocated

### Supplemental Reading Materials for World Studies

“I used the mini-grant to purchase copies of Trevor Noah’s book **Born a Crime** to enrich the Oppression/Apartheid unit in my 9th grade World Studies courses. The students were drawn into Noah’s sobering but humorous account of his experience growing up during and after apartheid in South Africa. They were able to identify with Noah’s experiences as a teen and young adult, facilitating class discussions and reflection.”

- Pablo Aguilera  
World Studies Teacher



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\*doubled donation through corporate matching gift

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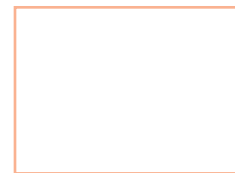
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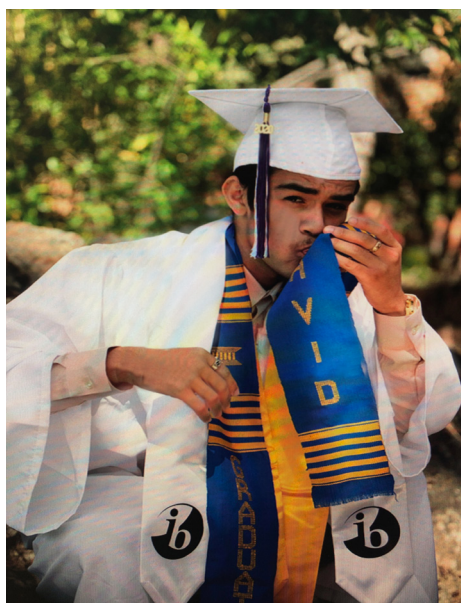
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The Sequoia High School Education Foundation (SHSEF) supports staff, projects and programs to ensure that every student has the opportunity to reach their highest potential. We raise funds for college services, academic enrichment programs, staff professional development, and student and family support.