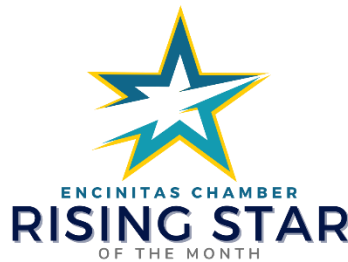


**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**



**OUTSTANDING LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS HONORED WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6 AT  
ENCINITAS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S RISING STAR OF THE MONTH PROGRAM**

**Encinitas, Calif. – December 8, 2023** --The Encinitas Chamber of Commerce held its fourth Rising Star of the Month event for the 2023-24 school year Wednesday, December 6, 2023. The Chamber has partnered with MiraCosta College's San Elijo campus this school year who hosts and sponsors the monthly breakfasts honoring exceptional seniors from the local high schools in the San Dieguito Union High School District.

The honorary program recognizes high school students who have demonstrated character, integrity, love of learning and involvement in school and community, and/or have overcome challenging life circumstances without compromising their education. Each month during the school year, additional San Dieguito Union High School students will be celebrated at a recognition breakfast. All Rising Star students will have the opportunity to apply for a scholarship which will be awarded in May, 2024 at the Encinitas Chamber's annual Salute to Education event.

The Encinitas Chamber's Rising Stars honored were Hannah Eghtedari from Canyon Crest Academy, Michael Christensen from La Costa Canyon High School, Gloria Mateo Martinez from San Dieguito High School Academy and Nataly Medina from Torrey Pines High School. Their families and local city officials were in attendance, including Shannon Bradley: representing Congressman Levin, Matt Rubel: representing Senator Blakespear, Robson Winter: representing Assemblymember Tasha Boerner, San Diego County Sheriff Captain Christopher Lawrence, Encinitas Chamber of Commerce CEO Sherry Yardley, Encinitas Chamber of Commerce Board members and San Dieguito Union High School principals and district officials were also in attendance.

MiraCosta College is the Rising Star of the Month Event and Breakfast Sponsor. Scholarship Donors are California Coast Credit Union, EDCO, The Cottage Encinitas, Encinitas Historical Society and the Encinitas Rotary Club. Gift donors include Gelato 101 Encinitas, The Baked Bear, Sambazon, Ki's Restaurant, Broad Street Dough Co., Chick-fil-A, Cox Communications, Raising Cane's and the Community Resource Center (CRC). Go to <https://encinitaschamber.com/events/rising-star/> for more information on how you can donate and be a part of enriching and uplifting our community.

## **MEET THE STUDENTS:**

### **Canyon Crest Academy – Hannah Eghtedari**

Hannah Eghtedari is a genuine and authentic person who loves learning, life, and caring for others. This has been clearly evident in her exploration of learning at CCA, taking a wide variety of rigorous coursework, along with participating in theater, and she excels! She is a leader in our PALs program which is designed to connect and support students and their well-being on campus. She has overcome health challenges, but we are most proud of the amazing human being she is every day, and our whole school benefits from her leadership.

### **La Costa Canyon High School – Michael Christensen**

Michael's community involvement is beyond compare. He has started numerous clubs focused on community service - including the JustServe club at LCC. He has led beach clean-ups, worked with elementary youth, and is always looking for ways to make his school and his community better. Michael spent time this past summer in Washington D.C. working on a healthy school lunch initiative. He truly does it all.

### **San Dieguito Academy – Gloria Mateo Martinez**

Gloria has shown her commitment to success through her work ethic, curiosity and passion for learning. Coming to the US in 6th grade, she is now trilingual and is dedicated to keeping her native language and culture, unique to Guatemala, alive by teaching peers about her home country. With plans to major in International Business, she has demonstrated her character and integrity through her steadfast determination to be successful. She is a role model for the SDA community!

### **Torrey Pines High School – Nataly Medina**

Nataly's journey has been marked by challenges and resilience. Her strong work ethic and self-motivation have been key factors in her academic success. Nataly displays empathy and understanding towards others, making her approachable and supportive.

###

**PHOTO CAPTION: L to R:** Javier Pina: Cal Coast Credit Union, James Meija: Cal Coast Credit Union  
Hannah Eghtedari: Canyon Crest Academy, Michael Christensen: La Costa Canyon High School  
Gloria Mateo Martinez: San Dieguito Academy, Nataly Medina: Torrey Pines High School, Sherry Yardley:  
Encinitas Chamber of Commerce, Russell Waldon: Dean MiraCosta and Carol Knight: Encinitas Chamber  
of Commerce

## **MEDIA CONTACT:**

Laura Charlton (formerly Johnson)

[laurajohnsonpr@yahoo.com](mailto:laurajohnsonpr@yahoo.com)

(760) 450-7749 cell